

Another road to equality

It is now seven years since the Warnock Committee reported on special educational needs and four years since the 1981 Act began to implement it by rearranging the legal framework.

Since then, the main conceptual thrust towards changing attitudes, which was to be triggered by abolishing categories of disability, has been dissipated by the instant growth of a new label saying special educational need, and the most obvious result of the attempt to give parents more say in assessment has been an administrative log-jam of statements.

Very little attention, by contrast, has been paid to researching or developing the services required to meet the needs identified by the statements. Implementation of the spirit and letter of Warnock has been praiseworthy in a few I.C.s and some schools, but undoubtedly patchy.

Educational Opportunities for All? this week's 308-page blueprint for change in inner London's special education services (page 10), is almost certainly the most ambitious authority-wide exercise so far to build on Warnock in its positive approach to services – and indeed goes well beyond it.

That is as it should be, given the seven-year gap and the fact that international thinking (we are not the only country by a long chalk to have made special provision a priority) has developed considerably on such topics as integration and the nature of handicap.

It has to be said that the leaders of the Inner London Education Authority have been astute (or well-advised) in their choice of chairman for each of the three independent committees of inquiry into under-achievement and inequality. John Fish was the staff inspector for special education who laboured behind the scenes to get as much of Warnock as the Treasury would concede on to the statute books, and through OECD projects since his retirement has kept in touch with developments elsewhere.

In any event, the last of IEA's trilogy to come out of County Hall and into consultation is as hard-hitting and radical in its exposition as the first. It does not adopt the severely practical approach of Hargreaves on Improving Secondary Schools, with its built-in timetable for implementation, and probably advisedly so. Inner London teachers are already knee-deep in equal opportunities policies, national

teacher action is impeding progress on most of them, and even Mrs Frances Morrell has learned not to be so impatient. She must be right in her declared view that such a complicated change in direction as that proposed in the report, to shift the vast inner London machinery on to a new course, requires a consultation far-reaching enough to carry everyone with it.

One response which this authority especially ought to be able to make without too much expenditure of time or money is to adopt the recommendation that it recasts its equal opportunities policy to include children and young people with special educational needs. It is indeed difficult to understand how it could have been left out until now.

The challenge to the authority to extend its endorsement of the comprehensive principle to embrace the integration of those with special needs "in schools and colleges for all" cannot be met without more deliberation, if only because integration has been so thoroughly misunderstood.

The idea of integration has frightened teachers and parents because it conjured up the spectre of the closure of separate tailored provision as much for financial as for education reasons, while children with disabilities soldiered on as best they might in the paradoxical isolation of the ordinary classroom.

Such a sink-or-swim approach is emphatically not what is proposed in the Fish Report, which defines integration as a process rather than a state, and backs up this somewhat opaque view with its commitment to an understanding of integration that recognizes the need for a spectrum of provision: integration in the normal classroom or college; integration with support; a combination of ordinary class and special unit; ranging through to separate provision where still needed for those most severely disabled.

This scenario depends on the assumption that the desegregation necessary to give everyone the same life chances has to be accompanied by the necessary support: specialist professional or even medical support delivered to meet special needs in the ordinary classroom.

Allied to that is a shift of thinking on the nature of "handicap" itself, which the Fish Report refers to as a "dynamic and relative" definition: it may not be the individual's own disabilities or difficulties which handicap him so much as society's or the institution's

response to them.

There isn't much doubt that this approach is on the right lines, or that the extent of changes in attitudes, resources and administrative machinery to bring it into effect should not be underestimated. Much of the commitment and goodwill is there, but it will require cooperation across professional boundaries inside and outside the education service, a purposeful in-service programme, more capital spending than Government policies allow, and the movement of special education teachers out of their segregated classrooms and into an advisory or support role. Fish takes up the Thomas primary schools report idea of a "cluster" of neighbourhood schools, and proposes to include a special school as resource centre.

It is evident that the Fish Committee was impressed by outspoken parent groups, especially those from ethnic minority groups. One response to this is the proposal for "befrienders", to guide parents through assessment and decision-making. This idea (mysteriously left out of the summary version provided by officials) has something in common with the dormant Warnock suggestion of a "named person", and is roughly based on a model provided by parents' groups in the US, but does not go as far as either. In the States they are backed by statutory rights, frequently invoked, and Warnock envisaged career guidance at the time of transition to work – a stage when it is arguably even more needed but which the Fish Committee were not given time to do justice to. If parent groups are as vigilant in consultation as in advice, this is an area where they might push harder.

Overall, however, the Fish Report moves boldly and authoritatively in the right direction and deserves to take the inner London education service and its clients with it on the long, careful haul towards educational opportunities for all (and why not without the question mark?).

But implementation cannot begin before next year's direct elections and the threatened governmental spending controls. Though Fish suggests that much could be achieved by diverting special education resources, there is a risk that the issue could be turned into a political football during an election campaign which will make the budget a prime issue. It deserves to be more than that.

COMMENT

Wait for the small print

The Employment Secretary's acceptance of this week of the MSC's proposals for a two-year Youth Training Scheme (page 13) is yet another impressive demonstration of the commission's headlong style. There were plenty of reasons other than yesterday's by-election for deciding and telling everyone quickly what form the new version of the scheme will take, and the MSC has complied readily with the Government's haste.

In announcing his acceptance of the broad framework proposed, Mr Tom King is committing the Government to very little beyond its previous statements. He is authorizing the broad framework and scope of the scheme, its funding pattern, and the level of the trainee allowance, but reserves the right to decide subsequently on what he calls the small print.

In return, the interests represented on the commission are undertaking a great deal – the obligation to deliver a high quality programme for the mass training of school leavers at a price the Government is prepared to pay. Yet it is the small print already in the proposals and the further detail which has still to be spelled out which will determine whether the new-model YTS provides as its norm the serious and purposeful occupational training it promises or turns out to be little more than a pretentious form of outdoor relief for the young.

Nobody would expect Mr King to rush his own fences unnecessarily, but the suspicion must arise that he is

waiting to see whether the MSC can really afford to make the demands on employers that its proposals envisage. The more stringent of the curricular requirements the commission planned to impose when it was setting up the existing version of the scheme were quickly dropped when the Government started worrying that it would not get enough employers to participate.

Now, because employers will be expected to provide nearly twice as many places and to pay a substantial part of the costs, the need to win them over becomes much more pressing. And the new funding arrangements mean that the commission will not be able to turn to the colleges and the voluntary sector to meet a shortfall in places. The commission has already given way to the employer interests' refusal to accept any obligation to provide the same proportion of off-the-job training and education as in the existing scheme.

Given the new scheme's declared aim of enabling trainees to attain recognized vocational qualifications, does this mean that all social education will have to be dropped in order to provide enough straight vocational education?

The plans for a quality inspectorate, and for insisting that those providing training are competent to do so, are bold and admirable; but the Employment Secretary has made a point of asking to be consulted in detail about their implementation.

The education service's way of approaching change is often dishearteningly slow and ponderous. But would any local authority announce, say, a significant extension of nursery provision without first making sure it could get the teachers, the classrooms, and a curriculum that could be delivered?



Out of tune

This week, HMI has delivered itself of a "curriculum matters" paper on music (page 5). Given the dismal track record of official celebrators in such matters, it is still quite breath-takingly inept. It informs us, with a straight face, that the first objective of music education at age seven is to "demonstrate a general awareness of sound and a familiarity with everyday sounds in the environment", that the second is to "show a readiness to experiment with sound" and that the third is to be able to recognize the difference between high and low pitch, and the difference between loud and soft. This initial list of truisms is, however, a long one.

By the age of 11, the meaningless banality of the opening objectives has deepened, and the ambitiousness of the technical ones has been rendered even more daunting: "improvise and compose original music with or without recourse to a direct stimulus". The final objective sounds like an afterthought: "recognize something of the evocative and expressive qualities of music". What else should they have been doing? By age 14, the clichés broaden yet further to embrace music's cross-curricular and social importance, and by the age of 16, the objectives straddle the skills necessary for external exams and the predictably resounding array of educational objectives for the non-specialist majority. The organizational sections of the paper are practical and sensible, but that is the least we should expect from a bunch of top-flight bureaucrats.

At the end of the appendix listing the responsibilities of the departmental head is the charming little injunction: "Keep musically alert and alive; avoid a closed mind and professional isolation". Well, yes, but the horse has long since bolted: the foregoing pages would only have been written by people whose professional isolation is extreme. Simple-minded musical theory is presented with a bland humourlessness which practising teachers will find absurd; the paper's laudable emphasis on "music for all" fails to grapple adequately with the problem of dealing with individual giftedness in the few; pop music is referred to in a nervous afterthought.

As it happens, we have our own contribution to the debate this week: 12 articles in the Music Extra on Pages 35-42. Michael Church

...no comment

"1. A teacher's salary is increased from £10,815 to £11,352. Calculate the increase in salary." Question from the John GCE/CSE mathematics exam paper, set by the East Anglian Examinations Board and the Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, June 12, 1983.

Second opinion

Anyone for Merit?

Who wants Distinction and Merit certificates? The teachers' association are solidly opposed and the examination boards distinctly apprehensive.

The local authority associations are unimpressed. The Association of County Councils thought the proposals would be expensive and restrictive, and would have "little to say to the overwhelming majority of students in secondary education".

The Schools Curriculum Development Committee is equally unimpressed. Balance and breadth should be available to all, not just the most able, the committee says, and "balance and breadth cannot be expressed simply in terms of subject labels".

Even the Secondary Examination Council is deeply divided on the issue, and has argued that implementation could damage the successful introduction of the General Certificate of Secondary Education.

Only the Headmasters' Conference had welcomed the proposals, with qualifications.

If the proposals are genuinely consultative – and their inclusion in five million GCSE explanatory leaflets does give rise to doubts – the tone of the replies does pose problems at Elizabeth House. There are variations of emphasis, of course, in the responses, and there is an occasional note of self-interest. But the one consistent theme is that breadth and balance are much more complex, and much more difficult to attainment, than these simplistic proposals would allow.

Even against the Government's own statements of curriculum policy, such as *Science 5-16*, the proposals seem narrowly prescriptive.

So what is Sir Keith going to do? The temptation will be to drop the Merit proposals altogether, and their curricular justification of breadth and balance, and revert to his original intention of certifying "distinction" *per se*. What he really wants, one suspects, is an instrument of quality control; a benchmark of achievement that will allow governors to ask the simple question, "And how many D certificates this year, Mr Jones?"

Yet the objections to the Merit awards apply equally to the Distinction proposals. In operation they, too, will be narrowing and restrictive, effectively confining the curriculum of able students to examination courses, and confining the curriculum itself to the existing subject framework. They imply, it is true, a *cordon bleu* curriculum for *cordon bleu* students.

In the real world of the schools, however, it is impossible to confine the pursuit of distinction to those deemed capable of attaining it. Parents, and students too, quite properly rule this out. So the repercussions of the D model curriculum would reach well down the ability range and, given the alarming intention of allowing students as many bites of the cherry as they wish, well forward in the age-range, too.

None of this means that the schools do not share Sir Keith's concern for the achievement of our most able students: far from it. But we are entitled to a less simplistic definition of the excellence that we wish them to attain, and a less simplistic measurement of it. So, indeed, are our governors.

In the context of the new role for governors that the Government has proposed, both Sir Keith and the schools should surely be hoping for more searching questions about joint achievement than, "How many certificates this year, Mr Jones?"

There is, still, a willingness to try. Identify both the criteria and the questions. It would be a pity if the Distinction and Merit decision were to pre-empt the debate.

Michael Duffy

Michael Duffy is head of King Edward VI school, Macclesfield, North Cheshire.

NEWS

Linguistics lagging, survey says

by Biddy Passmore

Few 13-year-olds can speak a foreign language fluently and grammatically or produce coherent and accurate writing of any length, the first national survey of pupils of all abilities has found.

But at least half can make themselves understood in exchanges about simple matters like buying food, and can produce an intelligible if inaccurate account of themselves in writing.

Contrary to the widespread view that British pupils are not interested in foreign languages, more think that learning a language is useful or enjoyable than do not. And girls, who tend to be better at languages, are also more enthusiastic.

These are some of the main findings of a survey, published on Monday, commissioned by the Department of Education's Assessment of Performance Unit from the National Foundation for Educational Research.

The survey, the latest in the APU's series of nationally applied tests, was conducted in June 1983. It covered 13 year olds taking French, German or Spanish as their first foreign language. The French tests covered nearly 5000 pupils in a random sample of schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The survey of German and Spanish covered 4,200 and 2,900 pupils respectively in England alone.

The age chosen for the tests was 13 because languages are not commonly started before the age of 11 and only about one third of pupils study them beyond the third year.

While the findings endorse the gloomy view about British linguistic achievement, they also contain some encouraging signs and indicate areas for improvement.

They suggest, for instance, that many 13 year olds could cope with longer texts in the foreign language than they are currently given and do more independent writing and that the exclusive use of oversimplified teaching materials is not developing their skills to the full.

One of the main keys to improving communication is a good vocabulary, rather than recognition of grammatical features, the report says. It suggests that teachers place too much stress on learning nouns at the expense of verbs and other parts of speech which may be crucial.

The survey also reveals the value of the practical approach used in graded tests in improving pupils' listening and speaking. The performance of 13 year olds who had taken graded tests was at least as good in these two skills as the performance of pupils who had not, even though schools tend not to enter their higher ability pupils for graded tests.

While more pupils held positive than negative views of modern language learning, particularly in German, the following comment may strike a chord with those who have wrestled with the German language: "I don't really understand it where all those *der's* *die's* and *das's* come in it and umlights, whatever they are called. I would like to learn French."

Foreign Language Performance in Schools: Report on the 1983 Survey of French, German and Spanish. Copies available, while stocks last, from the APU, Room 4177A, DES, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH.

The current system of school government which allows ruling parties on local authorities to pack governing bodies with political appointments has come into disrepute in a second rural county.

In Hereford and Worcester the Conservative party has been accused of tightening its grip on schools by dropping some non-political and opposition party governors in favour of card-carrying Tories.

A Tory faction has also tried to unseat Mrs Joyce Thomas, a fellow Conservative and governor of John Kyrie High School, Ross-on-Wye. Parents and pupils led a protest march through the town but Mrs Thomas, who has in the past staunchly opposed education cuts, was only re-elected after a Liberal councillor, Mr Ray Smith, offered her his own seat.

Last week *The TES* reported a row in Buckinghamshire where Conservatives have taken a hard line over appointments. In one case, a new Liberal councillor was denied a seat on the governing body of an adult education centre by the Tory candidate whom he had beaten in the county elections.

Mr Joan Sallis, an expert on school governors and a member of the Taylor Committee which recommended an equal partnership between parents, teachers, the local authority and community representatives, said this week that political domination and manipulation of school governing bodies had happened for years in urban areas and was now simply spreading to country areas. "The whole system is contemptible," she said.

Mrs Sallis has welcomed the White Paper "Better Schools" which says no single interest shall predominate on governing bodies in future. Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, is planning a new education Act which will give parents and local authorities equal numbers of seats. The number of teacher governors will be limited but there will be a new category of co-opted governors to be chosen by fellow governors.

Hereford and Worcester Conservatives had their majority slashed to two in the May elections but the party has obtained a 2:1 majority on committees and is seeking to obtain a similar ratio on some governing bodies.

In Labour-controlled Redditch, many schools have lost Labour governors and some community representatives. This follows two meetings of the education committee in the past ten days where Conservative representatives have been voted in.

Dr David Muffett, Conservative chairman of education said that approximately 1900 governors had had to be appointed by the education committee and only 100 names had been opposed by his group. Some of them were unacceptable because they were "militants". "We have a right to expect that governors appointed by us will do their best to keep before their colleagues the policies of the local authority," he said.

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Mrs Margaret Morgan, county secretary of the NAHT, said the atmosphere in the county was "like a circus" with emergency meetings being called and proper discussion going by the board. "People are getting very very desperate and very, very angry."

After the county council elections in May, the Conservative and Independent administration ordered that cuts were necessary because only three per cent had been allowed in the pre-election budget for the teachers' pay bill.

This week, nearly 550 parents packed into the Bryn Coch junior school in Mold for a protest meeting.

The fear was expressed that one proposal contained in a four-year plan to abolish nursery education altogether and to issue Section 12 closure notices this term might be implemented after the council meeting next week.

"Parents are intensely angry," said Mrs Sheila Naylor, chairman of the county federation of Parent Teacher Associations, "especially at the undemocratic way decisions are being made."

She said no parents had expressed the view that the teachers' pay dispute had precipitated the dispute.

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The Government's Green Paper, *The Development of Higher Education into the 1990s*, directed to two objectives it is difficult to reconcile. The first is to persuade, and if necessary to direct, higher education to switch places from the arts and the social sciences to science, engineering and technology. The second is to reduce public expenditure on higher education, though the Green Paper's formulation of this objective is couched in more acceptable strictures about getting resources from the private sector.

The Government's second objective depends upon the reduction in student numbers of 14 per cent to 492,000 in 1996/7, preceded by a reduction of 2 per cent annually in the higher education budget in the next few years. Students of science and engineering are, as the Green Paper shows, 60 to 80 per cent more costly to educate than students of the arts and social science. The Green Paper's projections for the rest of the decade aim for an additional 1,700 engineers by 1989/90, and show only a slight decline in the number of scientists within an overall student total 1,100 below the 1983/4 figure.

From their straitened budgets, the universities and polytechnics will have to find \$6 million a year to finance the new distribution between subjects. The Government's additional \$43 million meets that, but leaves the institutions to cope with the 2 per cent annual cut in funds by concentrating research, improving management, and closing departments and, if necessary, whole universities.

Let us now begin at the other end, not with the Green Paper and the Government's objectives, but with the national need. There is a serious, indeed critical, shortage of engineers and technologists. The First Report of the Butcher Committee in 1984 put the shortfall of qualified engineers in information technology at 1,500 in 1984, rising to 5,000 by 1987/8. A Policy Studies Institute study of the use of microelectronics in manufacturing industry published earlier this year gave a much higher figure. On the basis of answers from firms to questions about their need for engineers with skills in microelectronics, the authors of the PSI study calculated the shortfall at 21,000. Even that figure left out services, many of which people with similar skills. The Government's projections of scientists and engineers within a declining student total go nowhere near meeting the need. The Green Paper represents a blueprint for a country which accepts economic and technological decline.

Even the modest increase in the Green Paper may not be achieved. The examination boards report a decline in the number of young people offering mathematics and physics at A level. The schools themselves, trying to cope with falling rolls and rate-capped budgets, find it difficult to attract and keep good teachers in these subjects. Some schools no longer offer separate sciences, such as physics or chemistry.



Shirley Williams accuses the Government of "willing the ends but not the means" in its Green Paper on higher education and argues that even its ends are out of date.

Naive rather than Green

Nor is the situation likely to improve. A letter from the Under-Secretary of State, Mr Bob Dunn, to a Labour MP, Mr Brian Sedgemore, revealed declines of 27 per cent and more in the number of teachers in training for these subjects.

The paradox is that firms themselves are not looking so much for highly specialized engineers and scientists (though they need some) as for young men and women with a broadly-based education comprising knowledge both of science and the humanities. That is what society needs too. Politicians, lawyers and civil servants with arts degrees, who understand nothing of science and technology, will make misguided, badly-informed decisions. The frightening gulf between the educated people we need and the

ability of higher education to respond can be met only by tackling the early specialization required by the English and Welsh public examination system, by moving on from the badly positioned reform of O levels to a much more drastic reform of A levels than is implied by the introduction of AS levels. The Green Paper declares that the Government "has decided to promote greater breadth for those engaged in A level courses without reducing standards by introducing the unrealistic AS level examination"; but this is unrealistic. A broader education is incompatible with the level of specialization now demanded in A levels. The international baccalaureate, or to take a different model, the Scottish Higher Certificates are much more

Which way for higher education?

appropriate to the kind of education the new technologies require. To them should be added evidence of practical competence. The Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI) should be extended to pupils in academic streams and become a required element in entrance to higher education. Nothing more clearly demonstrates what is wrong with the universities, for all their excellence, than the recent pamphlet issued by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors making clear that A level subjects "which involve practical skill" are the least acceptable of all. When will the thinkers recognize the achievements of the makers?

Our main industrial competitors, Japan and the United States, maintain a broad education not only up to 18, but beyond. The National Advisory Board proposal for a two-year diploma course, which would earn students credits that could contribute towards achieving a degree was right on target. In its uninspired response, the Green Paper revealed how little has been understood of what is happening in higher education elsewhere. It will take time to alter the school curriculum to reflect the need for a broadly-based education. If my own experience of reforming O levels is anything to go by, Government reform of A levels could take a decade or more. How do we bridge the gap?

A national credit transfer system would help. Those holding sub-degree qualifications should be encouraged to move on to more advanced studies by the recognition of what they have

already achieved. The need is urgent but the Green Paper only references passing, in discussion of Business Technician Education Council qualifications as a step to degrees.

The other part of the answer is found in continuing education, which the University Grants Committee wisely recognized as an addition to the original Robbins principles. The Green Paper's chapter on "Education throughout life" is utterly inadequate. It pays lip service to continuing education, but escapes from any responsibility by saying it "does not believe in the arguments for taxpayer-subsidized the same for initial higher education." It declares the Open University should be "in the forefront of application of information technology" to continuing education, but where admits how savagely the Open University's development work has been cut.

The Green Paper makes no reference whatsoever to the European Commission's estimate that between half and three-quarters of the Community's workforce will require retraining within the next five years but since there is no reference in the entire document to student exchange within the Community or co-operation on research, that is hardly surprising.

The Government concludes "regret" that no substantial part of established public funding responsibilities for higher education can be shed. It does not, however, accept the fact of that conclusion. It expects the private sector to sponsor engineering students, but that isn't happening. A quote from the 1983/4 annual report of one university, Bath, which has an excellent reputation in this field, in spite of the new students' good A-level results, many have found it impossible to secure industrial sponsorship; one had made over 20 applications.

It expects industry to finance fundamental research and has therefore refused to increase the science budget, yet there is virtually no industrial funding in Britain for long-term speculative research, despite a record of outstanding achievement; firms are invariably demand confidentiality about research findings even when it is necessary, which prevents them from benefit to industry as a whole.

The Government, in short, wills the ends but not the means, and the means themselves are no longer appropriate to the era of new information technology. Technological and scientific achievement flourish in a society which understands the human mind and of science and technology are seen not as conflicting alternatives but as complements. The Green Paper, with its sinister references to "guidance" and its view of higher education as production line for jobs concerned with the narrow sense, plans for an anti-mechanistic environment in which few would want to live.

Shirley Williams, the former Education Secretary, is president of the Social Democratic Party.

Make your own music: HMI message for pupils

by Susannah Kirkman



Keeping in tune: inspectors believe pupils must become more involved in all forms of music.

"Music for all" is the message of HM Inspectorate's paper, *Music from 5 to 16*, published this week.

"Music education should provide first-hand musical experiences which are sufficiently absorbing and challenging to engage all pupils' continuing enthusiasm," says the paper, the fourth in the HMI series, *Curriculum Matters*.

Children should have the chance to take part in practical music-making, and should experience "the musician's fundamental activities of performing, composing and listening". By working directly with the raw materials of music, young people can best discover its vitality and power, the paper says.

The lives of composers are less important than opportunities for pupils to compose music. Playing back and appraising their own compositions should be an important part of music for junior secondary pupils, and will also help them to listen critically to the work of classical and other composers.

"A group of children who have created their own march will be interested to compare their composition with examples written by Schubert, Sousa and Prokofiev," the paper says. "Those who have created their own avant garde 'soundscape' will listen all the more attentively to a piece by Stockhausen, Ligeti or Penderecki."

Improvisation also enables pupils to gain an enhanced experience and understanding of music. And introducing electric keyboards, oscillators and synthesizers can add stimulus to this work. Although playing by ear and improvising are sometimes seen as

forms of self-indulgence, they can have a liberating effect on singers and players alike, according to HMI. Pupils should be encouraged to play in ensembles, to develop practical musicianship and to take musical initiatives, rather than learn a few pieces

by rote. For younger children, singing is important, ranging from pop to cantatas and operas by the time pupils are 14. But music should not become isolated from the rest of the curriculum. It can be used in the teaching of religious

education and drama, to evoke the atmosphere of a historical period or to add dimension to geography lessons. Scientific observation of the properties of tubes, bells, drums and loudspeakers can help pupils understand the important connections between music and sound, HMI says.

The paper lists objectives for pupils aged 7, 11, 14 and 16, but the main aims of music education are to develop:

- A sensitive response to sound in general, and to music.
- Insight into areas of experience which cannot be verbalised.
- The capacity to express ideas and feelings symbolically through the medium of sound.
- Necessary skills and concepts entailed in singing, playing, composing and listening.
- Social skills and awareness through making music together.

It should also offer pupils the chance to experience personal satisfaction and self-confidence from striving for high musical standards.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, has commended the paper. He believes it will improve standards in schools and extend their range of provision.

"*Music from 5 to 16*" is available from HMSO, price £1.50.

Heads alarmed at training shortfall

by Bert Lodge

Applications to train as teachers in shortage subjects are so drastically down on last year that if the gap between applicants and recruits is repeated, as many as one third of places could remain unfilled, says the National Association of Head Teachers.

The association has written to Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, drawing his attention to the "alarming shortfall" in the take-up of places in maths and science on BEd and PGCE courses last year.

This year, the prospects are even more serious, say the heads. By April, only 409 applications had been received for a target of 408 physics places. Yet last year, applications fell from 601 in April to 428 in autumn, a drop of more than 40 per cent, showing how eventual take-up is considerably lower than the number of applications. The maths figures are even more

serious, says the NAHT. The April 1984 applications figure of 1310 fell to recruitment of only 801 for a target of 931 (a drop of 63.5 per cent). The 1985 April figure for the same target is 968. The same drop of 63.5 per cent would see the autumn recruitment at 614 (317 short of target).

The letter points out that 1985 applications for teacher training are down so far in all subjects on the 1984 figures in both PGCE and BEd business studies. "It must be pointed out that the current climate with regard to teacher salaries and unrest will do nothing to encourage a single person to apply for teacher training."

Last week, the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers proposed additional cash bursaries to tempt students into training for shortage subjects.

Why time is running out . . .

2 July 1985

Dear Mr Jarvis

In the past week, I have met representatives of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and the Association of County Councils to discuss my open letter of 21 May and to answer certain questions arising from it in advance of Wednesday's meeting of the Birmingham Primary and Secondary Committee. I have decided to write to you as Secretary of the Teachers' Panel because it seems important to me that members of your panel should be aware of the key points made at these meetings.

The main points about 1985/86, which are already public knowledge but which I repeated at the two meetings, were as follows:

- 1 The Government has taken a firm decision not to make extra resources available to local authorities for 1985/86 nor to make changes in the system for targets and penalties for that year;
- 2 The Government is equally firm that local authorities' expenditure baseline for 1986/87 would not be adjusted on account of an end-loaded settlement for 1985/86;
- 3 The possibility of additional resources for 1985/86 was lost by the failure to produce an acceptable, affordable and negotiable reform package which, in accordance with my letter of 5 July 1984 to the education chairmen of the Local Authority Associations, I could have commended to my colleagues.

I very much hope that that position

The following is the text of a letter on the teachers' pay dispute that Sir Keith Joseph sent this week to Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT.

will not arise again for 1986/87. My 21 May letter made clear the Government's willingness to provide some additional resources for that year to secure progress towards the Government's objectives. These are to improve quality and standards in the education service. In output terms these imply improvements in curriculum and pupils' educational achievements. These depend on an important degree on the quality of teachers and teaching.



Keith Joseph

Hence I want to see pay, conditions of service and management of teachers which result in recruitment of the right kind of people, trained in the right kind of way, motivated to give of their best and to improve themselves through an expanded network of in-service training, and deployed to match the needs of pupils.

A clear, formally agreed and generally accepted description of teachers' duties and responsibilities seems desirable, together with a pay structure which matches recruitment, motivation and management needs.

For additional resources to be made available for 1986/87 it will be necessary for the parties to reach an acceptable and firm agreement in principle by October 1985. This is not an arbitrary date: after October it is simply too late for an agreement to be reflected in the RSG settlement.

October is therefore a real deadline and it is important that negotiations get under way quickly. It would be tragic for there to be no extra resources for 1986/87 because of an insistence that 1986/87 cannot be addressed until 1985/86 is settled.

Time is short. I am very ready to join such discussions as might be considered necessary to make progress at the rate required.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Chairman of the Management Panel and to the Chairman of the Committee, Sir John Worle. I am also releasing it to the Press.

Yours sincerely, Keith Joseph

Student figures may rise

The Government will have to revise its projections of student numbers upwards if the White Paper, *Better Schools*, improves educational standards, according to Sir Keith Joseph. The Education Secretary told the Commons select committee on education last week that it was not "legitimate" to assume the *Better Schools* policies would be successful, and the Government's Green Paper on higher education had taken no account of them.

Sir Keith attacked student unions

for "behaviour thoroughly unworthy of a free society." Some universities had "explicitly or implicitly" banned speakers whose views were unacceptable to a minority of students, yet higher education institutions should be "sanctuaries of free speech and debate", he insisted.

He also announced that the Government would spell out the financial and administrative implications of the Green Paper next year, to allow time for consultation with institutions of higher education.

NATFHE campaigns for handicapped young

by Diane Spencer

Handicapped young people are not getting their fair share of further, higher and adult education, a college lecturers' association claimed this week.

A campaign to improve the integration of disabled students into colleges, polytechnics and adult education centres has been launched by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. It has also published a guide to good practice which points out that the proportion of handicapped students on full-time courses varies from nil to 6 per cent within colleges.

One of the reasons why the figures are so low is that lack of provision has been stifling demand, NATFHE says.

The guide gives advice on drawing up a policy statement on special needs, and providing the type of information students require. It also includes a model admissions procedure, and

checklists for interviews and physical access.

Launching the guide and the campaign at a conference in London this week, Mr John Bailie, principal of Southwark College, called for an end to segregated post-school education. "Colleges of further education are extremely comprehensive and cost-effective providers for special needs," he said. Mr Bailie reminded local education authorities that they had legal responsibility to provide full-time education, if required, for all young people up to the age of 19, including those with disabilities. "To deny that opportunity is to impose a life-long handicap," he said.

Handicap, disability and special learning needs: a guide to good practice in further and higher education is available free from NATFHE, Hamilton House, Wembley Place, London W1 9BT.

Third World can use gifts of old stock

Britain's school cupboards contain equipment which, though obsolete here, would be a godsend to Third World countries.

Dr Ivan Tucker, a Manchester University audiologist, said that old stock in schools and other institutions could benefit underdeveloped countries. With colleague Dr Michael Niles, he visited Ethiopia in January in the children at a school in Addis Ababa with hearing aids.

Dr Tucker told a Manchester church group who funded the trip: "Many of them were obsolete models which had given to us by schools here, but they helped some of those youngsters to hear for the first time."

The audiologists emphasized that food was not the country's sole need. Indeed, many Ethiopians did not appreciate the extent of the famine in the north.

For their next trip in October, the group are collecting not only hearing aids but

Parents rush for school loans

A new loan scheme to help parents send their children to fee-paying schools has brought in applications totalling £3 million, only a few months after its announcement.

The National Westminster Bank Independent Schools Information Service scheme, which was launched in February, caters for fees due in the next five years.

Cuts opposition growing, says poll

by Paul Flather

More people oppose cuts in education expenditure now than a year ago, according to a survey of British social attitudes published this day.

The survey, based on 1,700 interviews carried out last year, shows just 5 per cent of the population favour tax cuts if they led to cuts in education, health or social benefits, down from 19 per cent in favour a year earlier.

Overall, the survey reveals declining support for Government economic policies. Last year's report showed that 87 per cent of the population opposed government cuts in education and health spending, but this year the figure had increased to 89 per cent.

The survey, the second in what is hoped will be an established annual series, was carried out by the independent academic institute the Social and Community Planning Research, and edited by Professor Roger Jowell and

Ms Sharon Witherspoon, of the institute.

The most significant change over government policy comes in the increased support for cuts in defence spending, now backed by 48 per cent compared with 42 per cent in last year's report. The young are particularly in favour of defence cuts.

The respondents were also asked to rank their priorities for increased public expenditure and, once again, education was picked out, coming second to health as a priority. In all, 51 per cent saw health as the top priority with education second, backed by 20 per cent.

Alliance supporters were the strongest supporters for increased education spending, and Conservative the weakest. Support depended greatly on age, with those in the 25-to-34 year age bracket coming out strongest in support.

Also, those who had more experience of education, for example at college or university, were more likely to support extra education funding. This might explain why men were significantly more in favour of extra expenditure than women: for historic reasons more men than women continue education after 16.

The survey also contains an interesting section on sex roles and gender issues which shows overwhelming support for the provisions of the equal opportunities laws. It shows, for example, that 96 per cent of the population back the provision for boys and girls to study the same subjects at school, with just 2 per cent dissenting.

* *British Social Attitudes: The 1985 Report*, edited by Roger Jowell and Sharon Witherspoon, published by Gower. £18.50 hardback, £9.95 paperback.



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L.e.a.'s warning stops girl from going to church

by Bert Lodge

A 15-year-old schoolgirl who had been going to church at nine am one day a week because her school did not have a religious assembly has been stopped by a warning from the local education authority that she is breaking the law.

But Mr Michael Fleming, father of Morag Fleming, a pupil of Sir Henry Cooper High School, Hull, said this week his daughter would resume attendance at the Wednesday morning communion service in September at nearby St Michael and All Angels if that was what she wanted.

The National Association of Head Teachers last week called for the legal requirement of a daily act of collective

worship to be amended together with the compulsory inclusion of religious education in the curriculum.

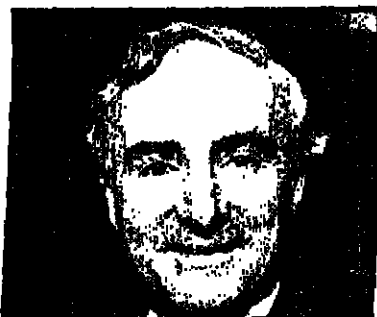
Mr Graham Laws, head of the school, agreed that an act of collective worship was no longer held daily although religious education was on the syllabus for all seniors and the subject was flourishing as an examination option.

Professor Arthur Pollard, recently elected chairman of Humber-side education authority, said he had already asked the director of education to remind all heads that they had a statutory obligation to conduct assembly.

Mr Fleming said his daughter had been missing a physics lesson each Wednesday morning. "She is very religious and is attending confirmation classes and hoping to be confirmed in autumn."

● Mr Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North and a former head, last week tabled a Commons question urging Sir Keith to stand firm against the NAHT call to end compulsory daily collective worship.

"We will never cure soccer and other social violence unless we get proper religious education in schools," he said.



Harry Greenway

DES asks for volunteer parent groups to fight drug abuse

Even teachers in primary schools should be informed of the tell-tale signs and symptoms of drug abuse says a new booklet issued by the Department of Education and Science.

Called *Drug misuse and the young*, it suggests that in areas where the drug problem is particularly severe voluntary parent groups could be set up in schools to help combat the problem.

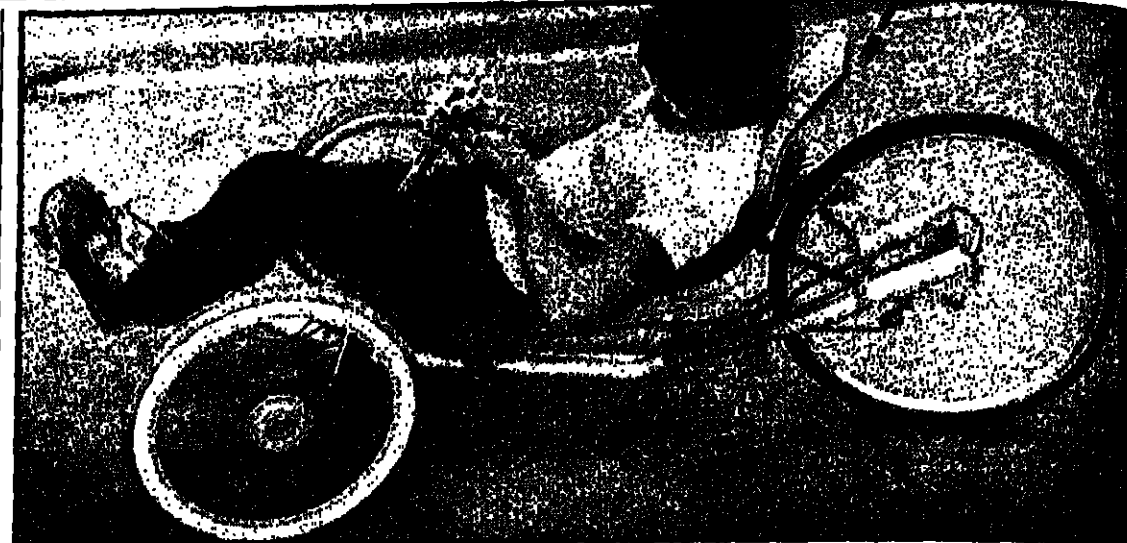
Launching the booklet, Mr Bob Dunn, junior minister, said his department had already set aside £4 million over two years to help 100 local

education authorities appoint co-ordinators to stimulate local activities against drugs misuse.

The co-ordinators could work closely with any voluntary parent groups set up in schools.

One role for such groups would be to assist other parents in the schools who faced drugs problems over their children.

He said no statistics were available to show the extent of drug use among children of school age, "but the information we do have is that drug



Flat racing: This lowly tricycle reaches the speed of 40 mph. It was built by Andy Smith, aged 17, as part of his GCE O level exams at Hardy's school, Dorchester. The project cost £150, and Andy says, "It's a very stable machine to ride and very comfortable."

Lecturer did not declare interest

by David Jobbins

The effectiveness of teacher representatives on local education authorities has been severely undermined following a lecturer's conviction for failing to declare a pecuniary interest, according to his union.

Urgent talks on the case, which hinged on whether the lecturer should have declared an interest and taken no part in a debate on a grading dispute at his college, are to be sought with the Department of Education and Science.

And the union, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, is virtually certain to appeal against the conviction.

But if it cannot achieve satisfactory guarantees for its teacher representa-

tive members, the union may withdraw them altogether.

Mr Kevin Whitston, a Lecturer 1 at Solihull College of Technology, was prosecuted under the 1973 Local Government Act after he failed to declare an interest when the education committee discussed a dispute over gradings at his college. He denied the charge.

The prosecution alleged that he had been warned he might have to declare a pecuniary interest because he could possibly become one of the lecturers up-graded. But Mr Whitston, who took advice from NATFHE's lawyers, refused to declare an interest because this would have barred him from the discussion and subsequent vote.

Mr David Triesman, NATFHE negotiating secretary, said the decision made it difficult for teacher representatives to operate properly and with confidence.

"At the moment we believe teacher representatives should carry on despite the fact it must be acknowledged that we cannot guarantee almost anything they say will not be regarded as illegal," he said.

"Mr Whitston will obviously have to be very cautious and prudent, as will every other teacher representative in the country. If they have to be so cautious and prudent they cannot do the job, and we will have to consider whether we should have them there at all. — THE S

Swann speakers cross picket

Pickets could not discourage two of the speakers at last Saturday's conference on the Swann report, organized by the Labour Party of Brent's race relations unit.

Mr Trevor Carter, senior liaison officer for the Inner London Education authority, and Professor Bikhru Parekh of Hull University, (both have served on the Swann committee), decided to cross the picket line.

The meeting attracted a large audience despite picketing by local community groups.

Estimates of pickets from about five groups varied between 15 and 50.

Another speaker, Mr Errol Law-

rence from Birmingham University, had already agreed to withdraw from the conference a week before.

Mr Rnj Ray, a teacher in Brent, and a member of the Society of Black Teachers, said he had boycotted the conference because of the "poor track record" of the unit in supporting black teachers in the borough. It was hypocritical of them to call this meeting, he said.

Professor Parekh and Mr Carter decided to address the conference because they felt that the pickets were not truly representative of the community and it would have been unfair to the 300-strong audience had they not done so.

Heads plea for pay structure

Secondary school headteachers in Suffolk have appealed to the Government for proper funding of the service and the implementation of a "worthwhile" salary structure for teachers.

In a statement, the teachers say: "The dangerous deterioration now so evident in our schools must be halted. In our view, the only hope lies in a wholehearted recognition by government of existing achievements.

"Teachers need to be rewarded for what they have already accomplished as well as to be offered an incentive to achieve more.

"No progress will be made with further vital reforms without the restoration of dignity and self-respect to the classroom teacher."

Greater shortage

Maths and physics teachers are likely to be in even shorter supply over the next few years. The three graduate advisory bodies warned last week that few science graduates are entering teacher training.

Mr Brian Pott, director of the Central Services Unit, said the number of science graduates entering teacher training had fallen by 20 per cent in 1984.

The failure to attract graduates will make a nonsense of the Government's aim to improve maths and science teaching in schools, said Mr Pott.



Mr Norman Tebbit, Trade and Industry Secretary, presented a special Free Enterprise Award to Baroness Cox (above) for her campaign to protect freedom in education. The award was given in London this week by Alma of Industry, the right-wing pressure group whose motto is "Freedom needs free enterprise".

Mr Michael Jvns, its director, said Lady Cox had done more than anyone else (except, perhaps, her co-author Dr John Marks) to oppose the politicization of education. To show how necessary this was, he cited picketing of schools by teachers and awards given by Hackney Public Library to children as young as six for designing rate-capping posters.

Lady Cox, invited to say a few words as she was leaving the platform, seized the opportunity to launch into a 15-minute speech condemning the trends to force all pupils into a monolithic state system and to subvert young minds by such means as peace studies and anti-police propaganda.

Special school wins praise

HMI reports

Pupils with special educational needs receive a rich educational experience at Crowley's Hill Day School, Swindon, according to Her Majesty's Inspectors.

The school, which caters for a range of disabilities, including language and behavioural problems, the partially sighted and partially deaf, is commended for the way in which its pupils are encouraged to find pleasure in learning. Inspectors say it is not usual for young people with learning difficulties to receive such a broad and varied education.

But they suggest that it would be valuable to encourage more learning through discussion, group work, discovery methods and planned opportunities for the practice of skills in "real situations".

In most subjects, the work is systematically planned but avoids the pitfalls of conformity, the report says. In some areas, though, such as art and heavy craft - woodwork - there is a need to identify and define objectives more clearly and find effective ways of achieving them.

Inspectors also think more could be done to make use of the teaching accommodation, which includes a purpose-built main building, an industrial unit of two linked huts on the nearby college campus and a terrace house with garden for training in life skills.

They conclude that there is a sound base in the school of professional expertise, genuine care and concern for pupils and willingness to respond.

HMI reports are available free of charge from the Department of Education and Science, Publications Despatch Centre, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AZ. Also available from I.e.a.s.

Their report on Leigh Voluntary Controlled Church of England High School says that there were 934 pupils on the roll in the 11 to 16 age range, but numbers were falling noticeably. There were 232 pupils in year 4 but only about half that number, 119, in year 1. It was likely that intake would remain at four forms of entry.

They add: "Free parental choice of secondary schools does not enable this school to predict its eventual size accurately nor in consequence plan the curriculum staffing needs well in advance."

Another consequence of falling rolls is that staff are having to teach their second and even third subjects.

On the plus side, the contraction may mean that the library, at present

used as a classroom, will be made available as a central resource for all departments.

The school is said to maintain a broad curriculum in the first three years and for most older pupils to enjoy good relationships and to provide an interesting and well organized environment, where it can exercise control.

Three major areas of weakness are identified by inspectors at Tyndale High School, Blyth, Northumberland. In a report which is otherwise complimentary, they say departments work too much in isolation from each other, so that many cross-curricular issues such as numeracy, oracy, and assessment are not seen as the whole school's concern.

In the fourth and fifth years, the numbers not taking science - 76 girls and 34 boys - is "a matter for considerable concern".

A total of 23 A level groups and five O level groups in the sixth form have five or fewer students in them. Inspectors say that some A level subjects, such as design technology and computer studies in Year 6 and engineering drawing in Year 7, have such small numbers that the school might consider whether their continuing to be offered is placing too great a burden on staff time.

But they say there is an atmosphere of optimism in the staff and many examples of good, and sometimes excellent work.



RM NIMBUS

THE EDUCATIONAL COMPUTER

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Learning to read just by reading

by Virginia Makins

A teacher in Peterborough has persuaded the staff in two primary schools to throw out conventional aids for teaching reading.

They no longer use flash cards and word lists and colour coding of books by levels of difficulty. Nor do they teach sounds, blends and phonics.

Instead, they simply read an enormous variety of books to and with children, and encourage parents to do the same.

Mrs Liz Waterland developed what she calls the "apprenticeship approach" to reading when she was the teacher in charge of language at Northborough School, Peterborough. Since then, she has moved to another local school, Brewster Avenue Infants, as deputy head.

The new approach grew out of her dissatisfaction with the results of conventional methods. Most children were learning to read sufficiently to reach a reasonably appropriate level on conventional tests.

But even when their reading ages were above their real ages, she found that a great many of them seldom, if ever, did read with much understanding or enthusiasm.

So she went back to the theory about how children learn to read, and was attracted by the many authorities, both American and British, who suggest that children naturally learn to read in much the same way as they learn to talk.

The adults' job should be to help them to do it, accepting their early attempts, helping them with what they can nearly do, and taking over when they want to do something that is too difficult for them.

Mrs Waterland has now set out the way she and her colleagues have translated the theory into everyday practice in a booklet called *Read with Me*, published yesterday.

Many primary teachers would share the intentions behind the method, to get children to read and enjoy a wide range of books. What is unusual is the wholehearted way the Peterborough schools have put them into practice.

The key idea behind the approach is that reading cannot be taught in a formal sequenced way any more than speech can. Reading is not a series of skills, fluently used, it is a way of getting meaning from text.

But the practical difficulties of putting the ideas into practice seemed formidable. Mrs Waterland feared - wrongly, as it turned out - that it would be impossible to explain to parents.

"We no longer proposed to teach reading at all," I intended that the children should, like Biddy in *Great Expectations*, "catch it like a cough." It all seemed a parents' nightmare. In fact, parents have been very enthusiastic about the new approach, and its results.

Instead of focusing on getting parents to hear children read, the teachers encouraged them to read to and with children. Gradually, the children began to take over with familiar or favourite books.

The children took home any book they chose. Each school book came

with a card suggesting some simple activities and discussion points that might come out of the book - provided children wanted to do them.

The second main ingredient of the approach was the selection of books. The one main criterion was whether children would enjoy them. Books had to be readable aloud "without sounding ludicrous", with natural predictable language.

The teachers looked for humour, pattern, high quality illustrations, all things that appealed to children. Children also made their own books, at first using the Breakthrough sentence makers, which the teachers found the best way of giving children early mastery of written language.

The teachers' job was partly, like the parents, simply starting to read with the children and letting the children take over when they wanted.

They found there were clear developmental stages and strategies, which could be recorded - but the children would always be at several different

stages at once, depending on the book they had chosen that day or week.

Mrs Waterland stresses that the strategies cannot be taught. All teachers and parents can do is to offer the conditions in which children can develop them and practise them without feeling tested or threatened.

Her booklet describes how she organizes her own classroom in some detail, and also suggests a way of recording children's development.

As a result, she claims, children who would not have learned easily are now learning very quickly and confidently. Reception class children are devouring books, first having them read and then reading them: many children read more than a hundred books in their first year.

Read with Me: An Apprenticeship approach to reading, available from Thimble Press, Lockwood Station Road, South Woodchester, Stroud, Glos, GL5 5EQ £2.35 inc p and p.



Liz Waterland reads with some of the pupils. Her approach to reading is that children should "catch it like a cough".

Anglican schools high on risk list

by Bert Lodge

Six out of 10 primary schools small enough to risk being closed are Church of England, a survey has found. And this could lead to conflict not only between Church and State but also between diocesan education authorities and their parishes.

The survey was made by Dr John Gay, director of the Culham College Institute for church-related education and based on DES statistical returns for January, 1984. It points out that the White Paper, *Better Schools*, published in March, stipulated the number of pupils in a primary school should be enough to justify at least three teachers for it to be educationally satisfactory.

Yet "taking all schools which have 60 or less pupils (and so being most unlikely to generate the minimum of three teachers identified by the DES as

necessary) one finds that 60 per cent are Anglican, 36 per cent county and 3 per cent Roman Catholic". This means that out of 2,407 schools with fewer than 60 pupils 1,440 are C of E.

The survey found that of those with 25 pupils or fewer, twice as many (64.5 per cent) were Church of England as were county schools (32.5 per cent). Even going up to the higher pupil limit of 100 just over half are Anglican, 2,371 out of 4,613.

Given that the purpose of the White Paper was to establish the principles on which the DES intends the school system to develop, it is apparent that larger primary schools are a key feature, says the report. And "if a concerted movement towards fewer and larger primary schools is initiated then the partnership between Church and State is going to be tested".

The arguments for and against small schools are avoided in the survey which, however, remarks that in this area "research evidence is weak and rhetoric strong". But the Church at both national and diocesan levels "will need to think through more fully what its policies should be in relation to this movement towards larger schools".

If the Church decides to operate as a positive partner it is likely to agree to a number of schemes which involve the closure or amalgamation of small church schools. And the management of conflict between diocesan authorities and aggrieved parishes is likely to become a serious issue, the report predicts.

"Few issues generate more heat in a small community than the threat to its school. Almost inevitably the local incumbent and parish church council

will fight for the school and very often the vicar is also chairman of the school governors.

"On the other hand, diocesan education committees and their officers have to work closely with i.e.s in order to agree a sensible overall plan for church schools within the politics and resources agreed through the local democratic system.

"When a diocese feels it should support the closure of a church school it is likely to bring it into conflict with the local church community and this is an issue which perhaps needs more attention focusing on it," the report suggests.

The size of Anglican primary schools. John D Gay, Culham College Institute, The Malthouse, 60 East St Helen St, Abingdon, £1.

Crane ban after accident

by Sarah Bayliss

Mr Barry Taylor, chief education officer for Somerset, has banned the hiring of cranes for school fetes after a woman and teenage girl were killed when a wire cage crashed to the ground during a family fun day at Puriton junior school near Bridgwater.

Mr Taylor visited the site within hours of the tragedy on Saturday morning.

Rachel Anne Coleman (14), a former pupil at the school, and Mrs Pamela Ross (35) died after they had gone up in the cage which provided panoramic views from 50 or 60 feet.

A spokesman from Somerset education authority said up to 12 people had been in the cage earlier in the day but they had been diverted to watch the headmaster Mr B D Freestone who was being locked up in ancient stocks.

The spokesman added that before

the accident crane rides had been a popular event at school and parish fetes all over the county. "The idea is that it gives you a bird's eye view of your home and village."

Health and safety officers are conducting an inquiry into the accident and an inquest is to be held.

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Inspectors find little faith in RE classes

Religious education is on the whole poorly taught in the 24 primary schools in Mid-Glamorgan recently visited by HM Inspectors.

The subject is not well-organized, the majority of staff in those schools have no specialist qualification in RE and in 11 of them no member of staff has any qualification to teach the subject.

Schemes of work had little or no reference to the agreed syllabus and out of 13 claiming they did, 12 had in mind an agreed syllabus drawn up 20 years ago rather than the one recently adopted.

In response to a questionnaire, 11 of the 12 said they had no textbooks, few had sufficient Bibles and "disappointingly" few used RE broadcasts.

Assemblies, however, are generally carefully planned and successfully bring people together in a caring atmosphere to share both sad and happy experiences. In some assemblies, pupil participation is substantial and most schools have a good repertoire of hymns.

Schools were generally unaware of the nature of the new agreed syllabus though many complained that it was insufficiently detailed for staff not trained as specialists.

In most schools, schemes of work are drawn up by the head with individual teachers selecting their content to suit their particular age range.

Six schools left the question unanswered about their schemes of work relating to an agreed syllabus. One school requested a copy of the adopted agreed syllabus, if available. Only six schools claimed their scheme of work related to the new agreed syllabus in RE.

In only two schools were staff designated as consultants for RE and in only one did a member of staff take classes other than her own. All teachers claimed RE was an element of professional studies included in their college course but that the time given to the subject was barely adequate in preparing them to teach it in schools.

Few heads or other members of staff had attended in-service training courses in the subject in recent years. Some heads had attended an afternoon session in the local teachers' centre to discuss with an adviser the new agreed syllabus adopted by the Mid-Glamorgan local education authority.

Few schools give any specific teaching in other faiths, their sacred writings or festivals so pupils know little about how followers of other faiths worship or behave. In most schools the subject is linked to Bible stories which are generally read or told to the class.

This probably accounts for fidelity to the old agreed syllabus which was "far more prescriptive and adopted a biblical chapter and verse approach offering to many schools, as they conceived religious education, a far more secure base".

The inspectors found little satisfactory in the pupils' written work. It was frequently "insubstantial, lightly marked rarely assessed with a view to determining how well pupils understood religious concepts. In many schools pupils had few opportunities to write in their own words and few pupils were given the opportunities to ask awkward or difficult questions.

Not many schools encouraged pupils to express aspects of RE through dance or drama.

The inspectors concluded: "Few schools have received help from outside agencies and many are unaware of the new emphasis within religious education as reflected in recent agreed syllabuses or in modern resource material."

"In many schools there is a lack of confidence in teaching anything other than biblical material in a straightforward, narrative manner."

A survey of religious education in 24 primary schools in Mid-Glamorgan. Education Dept, Welsh Office, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ.

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Another case involved an advertisement for 'Absolutely Free Perfume'. Somebody smelt a rat when they discovered postage, packing and handling would set them back £175.

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Photographs shouldn't deceive you either. Recently, a promotional leaflet illustrated a gift barbecue set complete with tools and shiny red bellows. But the bellows weren't part of the gift and therefore should not have been included.

This promoter deserved to be hauled over the coals. We pointed out that a photograph of a gift should exactly match the gift itself.

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مكتبة الأصل

The report of the John Fish Committee reviewing special educational provision in the Inner London Education Authority was published yesterday. Susannah Kirkman reports on some of the recommendations of "Educational Opportunities for All?"

Integration best for special pupils



John Fish

Children and young people with special educational needs should be educated "where they retain contact with all their contemporaries", the report says.

"The aims of education for children and young people with disabilities and significant difficulties are the same as those for all children and young people," it insists.

The Fish Committee concludes that the degree to which someone is handicapped depends on the educational, social, physical and emotional situations with which he or she encounters. Handicaps "arise from the mismatch between the intellectual, physical, emotional and social behaviour and

aspirations of the individual and the expectations, appropriate or otherwise, of the community and society."

The Committee interprets special educational needs as including all aspects of learning, not just limitations in academic achievement. Schools have to meet the needs of gifted children, those learning English as a second language and those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

The report recommends that the ILEA reformulates its equal opportunities policy to include children and young people who may have special educational needs.

And although it says that all special educational needs should be met as far

as practicable within mainstream schools and colleges, the committee recognizes that integration cannot be achieved without extra resources and careful planning. Furthermore, the changes cannot be made overnight. In the meantime, close links must be built between special schools and units and mainstream institutions.

Some special schools may continue to be necessary, the report accepts, but "most should now be moving towards a close association with primary and secondary schools".

Every day special school should now be formally linked with a primary or secondary school, depending on its age range, it says.

Because the majority of pupils in

schools for moderate learning difficulties and for emotional and behavioural difficulties are of secondary age, it is difficult to meet the needs of primary pupils in these schools. The report recommends instead that units for younger pupils with these needs should be set up in primary schools.

The Committee recognizes that residential provision will continue to be necessary for some young people and recommends that links with their homes, local communities and services should be as close as is consistent with meeting these pupils' needs.

Wherever possible, primary and secondary provision within special schools must always be separate, the report says.

Widespread anxiety over assessment procedures



Integration at work. Partially hearing children attend classes at Laycock primary school, London.

Anxiety and confusion about the assessment procedures introduced by the 1981 Act is widespread, judging by the evidence that parents' pressure groups gave to the committee. "Parents ... frequently had difficulty in balancing the views of different professionals, even when they concurred." Many families assumed the educational psychologist was "some kind of doctor", or someone who "deals with mad people".

Parents complained that the statement process took too long. One parent was still waiting for a statement for his child 14 months after asking for assessment.

Parents from ethnic minority groups were particularly dissatisfied - 37 per cent of Afro-Caribbean parents, compared with 22 per cent of other parents, were not happy with the way they were told of their child's special educational needs. 42 per cent of these parents, as opposed to 13 per cent of all parents, were dissatisfied with the amount of

Parents

information provided. The committee expressed concern at "the feelings of alienation and rejection" experienced by some of the ethnic minority parents and at the clear evidence that some parents perceived special education as labelling. The report recommends better and more culturally acceptable information for ethnic minority parents, "a wider understanding of cultural differences by professionals", and a more extensive use of interpreters.

The report recommends that parents should be entitled to a "befriender" or counsellor, perhaps from a voluntary organization, who can help to guide them through the maze of special needs provision. The ILEA should also invite voluntary organizations to provide support and assistance to parents during assessment procedures and at any other stages of their child's education.

Long-term gain

The report recognizes the expertise of teachers in special education, and the additional demands its recommendations will make "on a hard-pressed profession, which in London is already attempting to equalize opportunities and combat racism".

But the committee hopes its proposals, "although involving extra work in the short term, will provide genuine relief from some current frustrations in the long run".

Teachers in special schools should receive in-service training to help them share their knowledge and skills. Some teachers with experience of special schools could be advisers or consultants in mainstream schools, it suggests.

The Committee also stresses the importance of inter-professional training between occupational groups.

Lack of liaison between services causing confusion

Liaison between the different services responsible for special educational needs appears to be poor, and the allocation of responsibility for different types of provision can be confusing and arbitrary, the committee found.

Many sources commented on the need for better links between health, education and social services if children and young people were to get appropriate help and if their parents were not to be confused by "very different approaches" to service delivery and provision. As one consumer group insisted: "We need structured, uncluttered lines of communication between the school, the ILEA support services, the local borough social services and the local health authority."

At present, as many as seven different groups or officers can be responsible for the curriculum of children with special needs. And responsibility for placements is divided among five different groups.

The committee recommends greater delegation of responsibility to a local or divisional level, within firm guidelines established by the authority.

Decisions about assessment, place-

ment and the development and use of services should be made locally, says the report. One example of suitable delegation is home tuition, where decisions to provide weekly tuition are

Reorganization

already taken at local level in one division of the authority, while the other nine divisions are still referring decisions to County Hall.

The divisions should be responsible for all special needs provision in their areas, apart from boarding schools. They should also be responsible for all admissions to any form of day centre within their area.

A divisional management group in each area should develop a plan for services in each division and report annually to the authority's education officer.

Each divisional management group should set up a small panel to arrange admission to the variety of centres outside primary and secondary schools for which no statement is needed.

Points...

The committee has recommended that the ILEA should at least maintain its present funding commitment to special needs.

The report says some special schools will have to be closed because of falling rolls and increasing integration. Any resources saved from the contraction of the present system should not be taken out of the budget, but devoted to building up services in mainstream schools and colleges.

The report recommends that the ILEA's present commitment to provide for young people with special needs should be extended from age 19 to 21, as it is already for young people with severe learning difficulties. The authority should also continue to develop educational opportunities for the handicapped into their middle-twenties and beyond.

No "special" colleges should be designated, and provision should be made within all further education colleges, which should each have a written statement of their arrangements.

All educational establishments are advised to check how accessible their buildings and facilities are to disabled people. In the short term, there could be better signs showing accessible entrances. In the long term, the committee recommends the creation of a few "barrier free" schools, and says that all new building should be carried out with the needs of the disabled in mind.

Nursery provision absolutely vital

Parents, teachers and other professionals stressed to the committee the importance of early provision for children with special needs. They complained that the value of early educational intervention was not always recognized and one health authority commented: "Social service departments are still inclined to think that education starts at five."

But many parents feared that the formal assessment of a child under five might act as a barrier to their child eventually moving to primary and secondary schools.

Cluster plan

Services for the under-fives, primary and secondary schools and the main primary feeder schools, plus local nursery schools, special schools and tertiary colleges. Clusters would share the responsibility for most special needs which arose in their group and develop the means to meet them.

Each cluster might comprise three secondary schools and the main primary feeder schools, plus local nursery schools, special schools and tertiary colleges. Clusters would share the responsibility for most special needs which arose in their group and develop the means to meet them.

Transition would also be improved, and other services would be able to deploy staff to work with a small group of schools.

Under-5s

The Committee felt there was a need to review and prepare a new plan for all the provision for under-fives by the ILEA, social services, child health services and voluntary organizations. There should be a greater input from educational psychologists into day nurseries and child-minding services and social services should have a greater role in the assessment of children under five.

Draft guidelines needed

Schools often had problems identifying pupils' special needs, according to the report. In general, the implications of impairments and health problems were not very well understood.

There were also few effective links between class work and the work of pupils who were "withdrawn" for extra help. And there was a tendency for weaker teachers to be allocated to children with special needs.

At primary level, the report suggests that the development plans to be drawn up by each school (a recommendation contained in "Improving Primary Schools") should include a statement on how it proposes to assess and meet special needs.

A small working group of inspectors and educational psychologists should

The report recommends that a pamphlet be published for parents of children under five, explaining procedures for assessment and the different kinds of provision available.

The committee has endorsed the importance of home teaching systems like the Portage scheme, which enable parents to participate in their children's early education. The report recommends that home visiting arrangements which provide systematic early intervention programmes for parents and their children should be more widely available.

Primary and Secondary

and a teacher should be designated in each department.

More attention should be given to helping fourth and fifth-year pupils with special needs. And every secondary school should develop provision for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Proportion of women graduates declines

by Geraldine Hackett

Women are beginning to lose out in the university stakes. For the last 20 years, women have been a growing proportion of those graduating, but last year that trend was reversed.

Data collected on 1984's output from universities shows that while the number of graduates fell for the first time in decades, women were hardest hit.

The figures reflect restrictions on arts courses. According to statistics drawn up for the Central Services Unit for Careers and Appointments Services, the number of men graduates in 1984 was down 1.3 per cent on 1983, while the number of women graduates dropped by 1.7 per cent. The peak year for women's share of university education may turn out to be 1983, when women made up 41 per cent of graduates.

Mr Brian Pott, director of the CSU, said there had been virtually no change in the subjects taken. "Women still tend to take arts degrees, and in the applied sciences they hardly figure at all."

"If equality of opportunity really existed, then we should be seeing as many women as men graduating. In other countries, such as France, the split is half and half."

In 1984, 72,973 students graduated from university - 1,079 fewer than in 1983. Of the 1984 graduates, 43,400 were men and 29,573 were women.

More than 37 per cent of the women graduated in the arts, compared with 15 per cent of the men. Some 12,000 men graduated in the pure sciences, compared with 6,700 women.

Gerald Haigh investigates an international conference on supernatural events

Lifting a veil on the paranormal



Phenomena such as dowsing have a rational explanation, according to a committee researching paranormal occurrences.

Last Saturday, during a coffee break in a conference at University College London, a cigarette moved unaided across a table in an apparently paranormal way. How did it happen? Was my long dead auntie Miriam still gasping for a Woodbine?

It is the readiness with which so many folk leap to supernatural explanations of puzzling events which led to the foundation in the early Seventies in the USA of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. Some eight years ago a British branch of the committee was formed and last weekend it hosted for the first time the organization's international conference entitled "Investigation and Belief".

About 200 people attended the conference, mainly but by no means exclusively academics. There were six main speakers, ranging from Professor Mark Hansel of the University College of Swansea, whose labyrinthine critique of the methodology used in a series of ESP experiments left me feeling that I will never again be able to look at a sealed envelope without falling asleep, to James Randi, magician, author and raconteur.

Randi did a comprehensive and entertaining demolition job on the poltergeist which recently subjected a teenage girl in Columbus, Ohio, to bombardment by most of the contents of her home, including the telephones, which would leap menacingly towards her, pulling their cords bar taut.

Those of you who have just had 'phone bills and feel that your own teenagers could do with a bit of Edison's revenge ought to know that Randi entirely demolished the so-called evidence in this case simply by looking carefully at it.

Such insistence on the application of proper scientific criteria or simply on proper observation is the essence of

the committee's philosophy. Under the revealing light of rational thought, say members, all manner of paranormal phenomena from dowsing and metal bending via ancient astronauts to clairvoyants start to wither and fade. The hope is that people - and the media in particular - will stop to think before accepting and passing on uncritical accounts of strange events.

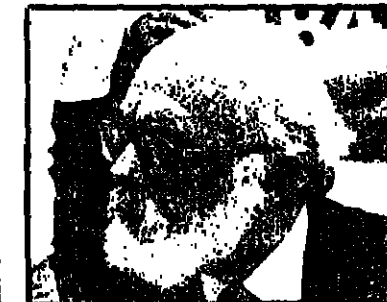
Committee member Jeremy Cher- kias, a biologist and writer, feels that the construction of tests for paranormal events could be used as school science projects, the aim being to produce students who know what questions to ask.

The trouble is of course, that as TV

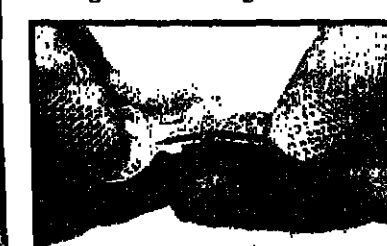
producer Karl Sabbagh told the conference in his lecture on fringe medicine, "We live in a boring world where the usual happens usually and the impossible does not happen at all."

What about that mobile cigarette? The clue is that the committee attracts the interest not only of scientists, writers and thinkers but also of professional magicians. David Berglas, a renowned magician is in fact vice-chairman. This aspect of the committee raises some academic eyebrows but as one member said, "We need them."

Anyone who knows about investigation into parapsychology knows that scientists have a very poor record when it comes to being taken in.



James Randi (above) specializes in demolishing supernatural claims, including metal-shearing (below).



So although I do not know how the cigarette moved, I do know that its excursion was not unconnected with the presence of a genial chap from Oldham who was dispensing business cards bearing the name "David De-Val, the new Houdini".

● The education committee of the London borough of Redbridge decided at its last meeting against letting education premises for demonstrations of clairvoyance, David Lister writes.

The demonstrations would have involved the use of a medium, but the education committee received objections from the public to school premises being used for such a purpose.

Colin Welland is standing in front of one of Britain's major gas pipelines. Gas provides getting on for sixty per cent of all the heat used in British homes - and the way all that energy is transported about the countryside is one of the reasons why Colin is keen on gas. Because gas is delivered direct to Britain's homes and factories through a network of over 150,000 miles of hidden, underground

pipes - no lorries, trains or tankers needed, and no pylons to spoil the view. But the fact that it goes underground isn't the only beauty of gas. It's also the cleanest of fuels to burn. Which helps to keep the air purer. So it's not just gas customers who benefit. Britain benefits because people prefer gas.



"BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE FUEL
KEEPS THE COUNTRYSIDE BEAUTIFUL"

PEOPLE PREFER GAS
AND BRITAIN BENEFITS

BRITISH GAS

مركز في الأصل

Women kept out by tough trend in management style

by Hilary Wilce

The trend towards more professional management in schools is keeping women out of jobs, according to a senior education lecturer.

Tough management styles, "reflecting major trends outside schools", are in vogue, and as a result, women are not being selected for school management teams, it is claimed by Dr Jackie Lukes, a lecturer in the economics of education at Hull University.

Dr Lukes has investigated the position of women in Humber schools, and collected anecdotal descriptions of how women teachers fare in their careers, for a national workshop being held today in Hull, on women in educational management.

"There seems to be tough, beefy emphasis on running schools at the moment—one head actually said to me 'management is like rugby league'", Dr Lukes said. "Heads are looking for the kind of people whose voices can boom along the corridors. Women are traditionally involved in the pastoral side—and this can be seen as wet and soppy and soft."

Dr Lukes, who is analysing figures on women's positions in Humber schools, says early evidence is emerging that the position of women is getting worse as middle and special schools disappear.

There is also some evidence that more men are turning to top primary jobs as they find their promotion prospects in secondary schools blocked. In addition, deep-seated male prejudices against women are widespread in the education service, she claims.

One woman had described her application for a senior job at a mixed comprehensive school outside York, in competition with four men. All the candidates had been asked the same questions, except for the woman who was also asked whether she thought she could keep discipline.

Dr Lukes also reported a range of unflattering comments about ambitious women, made to her by heads and inspectors. One had said women could not take responsibility; others had described them in terms of being "bossy" and "hard".

"One man, a divisional HMI, described successful women colleagues as 'all but men except they haven't got moustaches'—and some of them do have moustaches!" Then he put his head back and roared with laughter.

The workshop, for teachers, advisers, officers and representatives of industry, has been organized by the Centre for School Management Training, which has also recently held a day's "brainstorming session" for ex-

perts in the field of women in education.

A speaker at the conference, Ms Isobel Shepherdson, the former head of Kidbrooke Comprehensive School, in inner London, told *The TES* that her interest in equal opportunities in education had been roused when her all-girls school went mixed.

"I was a firm believer in the belief that all-girls schools furthered the girls' best interests. When we went mixed, I was shattered at how I had been misled. Now I am convinced that the way forward is through mixed schools, but reconditioned mixed schools. And you won't recondition boys and girls until you get both sexes together."

The change at the school had prompted staff and pupils to re-examine materials, attitudes and teaching styles, she said. Staff observed each other's teaching of mixed classes, to see which pupils got the most attention.

"I taught a class with two thirds girls and a third boys. I came out thinking I had done all right, because I was aware of the issues. When I saw the ticks on the sheet I saw I had spent 60 per cent of time on the boys."

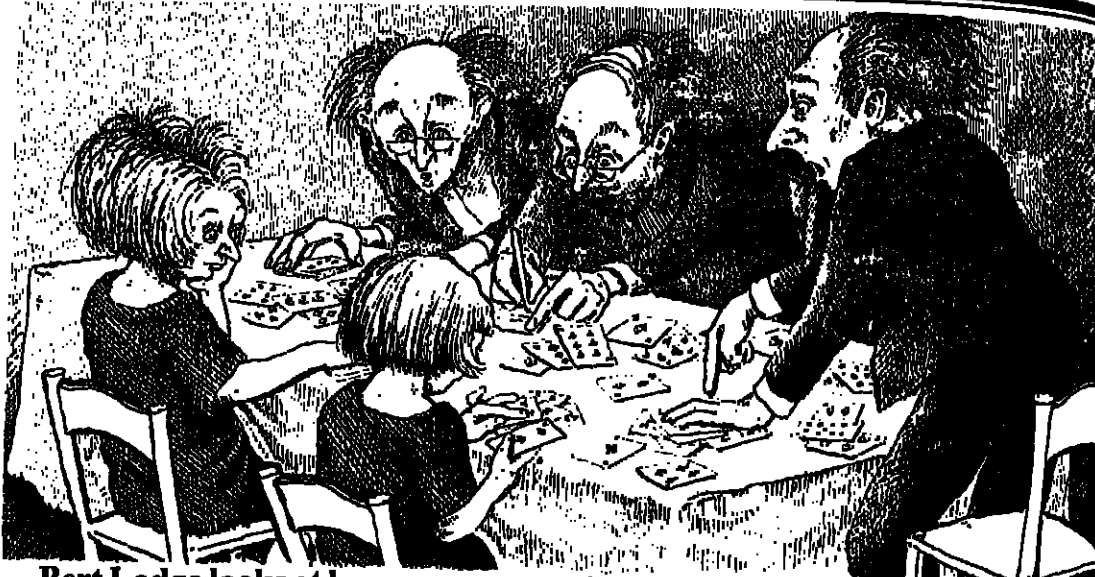
"This sort of exercise is very useful, because it provides factual information and takes the emotion out of it all."

Ms Shepherdson said women needed to be encouraged to try for senior jobs. "Men come in and within five minutes of starting teaching they are putting themselves forward. With women you have to go along to them and say, 'Have you seen this job?' And then they say they don't feel ready. Well, maybe they're not, but neither are the men. And the fact that the women know it probably means they are probably more ready than the men."

Women did not need to take additional courses to get senior jobs as some people suggested, she said. They needed to recognize their own qualifications, and in have them recognized by those making the appointments.

"If you want, seriously, to put more women in senior posts, then you could do it at a stroke by saying that a vital qualification is having had the experience of caring for young children, full-time, for a time. It's a very, very pertinent experience, and it's one that most women have, and most men don't."

"Why do people always think that a man doing the same old job in the same old way for 10 years is going to do it better than someone who has had a variety of experience and is coming back with a fresh approach?"



Bert Lodge looks at how management courses pick the leader of the pack

Turning up trumps

As far back as 1972, I sat in for a couple of hours on a management course for heads at the old Padgate RAF station, although the bit where the heads were mustered had been re-entitled The North-West Educational Management Centre.

During the same year, in a different part of the country another TES reporter sat in on a management course for industry called Action-Centred Leadership.

So the idea of training heads to manage and the ACL approach have been around for a few years—but not too close to one another. Let's say one was cautious of the other.

Mr Ron Abbott, now with the Secondary Curriculum Development Council but who was training heads in inner London 15 years ago, puts it like this: "There was a lot of resistance to the idea that running a school could be compared to running an industrial plant. It was based on the proud stance that 'We are about people; not about efficiency'."

Through the 1970s education trainers continued to talk weekly around the structures of commercial management training, but in gradually decreasing circles it was noticed. Here and there, sorties into the suspected territory began to be made.

In 1978, Lincolnshire County Council set up a working party to provide management training which decided upon ACL courses and imported an adviser from the Industrial Society to conduct them. But the first was not put on until 1983, and then only as a pilot run for heads.

Last month, Mr Fred Pope, head of Queen Elizabeth High School, Galnabrough and one of the 12 heads selected for that initial experiment, told a conference of teachers and advisers how much action-centred leadership "has changed my attitudes and practices radically".

He went on: "I believe that the ACL training enables a head to fulfil his leadership role with more purpose, more understanding, and in a much

more structured fashion. It has given me a workable, progressive method of improving my school and I can see that it will continue to stand me in good stead in coping with the TVEI initiative and with those initiatives still to come."

Well, follow that, as they say on the after-dinner speakers' circuit. But what is ACL? Ron Abbott thinks that a fair measure of it might have figured in the courses he and Mr Norman Geddes, another heads trainer, used to run in London in the early 1970s for primary heads but "we probably wouldn't have called it that because we wouldn't have known what it was".

Well, what is it? The question was put to a senior adviser of the Industrial Society after last week's conference. And why "action"? That's an administrator's word, an out-to-speak power, dynamism, a self-soap powder-fast word.

"You're right," he said. "It really ought to be called 'do something about it' but it centred leadership. But we can't call it that, can we? Yet it does mean set your tasks, pick your team carefully, go round and motivate each one individually, follow progress, make sure everybody involved knows what's expected of them and of all the others."

Put like that it sounds inspiring. But the inspiration comes largely from the personality of the tutor. Left to the printed word the theory can look fairly plain—manpower, the list of predictable grounds—defining, identifying, involving, communicating, assessing, developing... difficult to believe it's very different from what any other management course ought to be.

At last week's conference at the Industrial Society, a training exercise was put on. Mr Andrew Bales, head of the senior department at Newquay Tretherras School; Mrs Rosemary Leves, deputy head of Rodean; Mr John Taylor, an adviser in Manchester; Dr John Welton, London University Institute of Education; and Mr Bruce Allen, head of Christ's School, Richmond, were sent from the room, then invited to return to find a table with two

chairs down two of the sides and a single chair at another. Waiting under a white sheet was a jumble of playing cards from four packs. The task—only exercise of the day—was to set them into respective packs then put them into suits in descending order, any deficiencies to be recorded. It was less to see whether they knew the spades from the diamonds, and more to see whether a leader would emerge who would organize the group.

Opportunities for leadership, identifying the task, identifying constraints, perceiving what skills were necessary were all there yet it has to be said this group of very experienced teachers made a laborious job of it, going to 10 minutes instead of the 10 minutes allotted or "25 per cent over budget" as Mr Richard Boulton, an adviser for the society, put it.

Though involving, sharing, communicating—all the staples of contemporary communication—are included in action-centred leadership, the head under the 1944 Act need fear any evaporation of authority.

Of his staff meetings Mr Pope says: "I follow the ACL advice with care. I make clear that what I say is the policy and that what conclusions are reached must come to later as a result of staff meetings."

I find staff meetings more exhausting and look upon them as a necessary exercise which rarely brings or brings inspiration to the school's general aim.

Not far, this, from the head visited by a reporter the day after the publication of the long-awaited Taylor Report which recommended radical changes to who should sit on school governing bodies. What did he think?

"I don't know, I haven't read about it yet," he said, indicating his daily newspaper unopened on the table. "They can recommend what they like so long as I can go on running my school the way I want to."

Action-centred leadership will not impinge that, though—it's intended to facilitate it.

Review of orchestra policy

by Richard Garner

Labour-controlled Birmingham City Council is to review whether children from fee-paying schools should be eligible for places in the council-funded Birmingham schools orchestras.

In advance of the review, letters were sent to 25 children from independent schools cancelling auditions due to have been held this week. However, a meeting of the education committee on Tuesday agreed to rearrange these auditions—so that the status quo prevailed pending the review.

The move to reconsider policy came after an inner city subcommittee representing the Ladywood area had called for information on the percentage of inner city children in the orchestras and the numbers of children from ethnic minority groups. The review will be carried out in the autumn.

The auditions were cancelled because education officials felt it would be harsh for children to go through them—and then find a change of policy taking up a place. However, an assurance has now been given that any policy change will not affect the make-up of the orchestras until next year.

Training for governors

The National Association of Governors and Managers has drawn up a training package that can be used by organizations to provide basic training for school governors.

This year, each school has to have its own governing body, with elected parent and teacher representatives.

Only about 45 per cent of education authorities provide training for governors.

The training model is available from the NAGM. Contact: Felicia Taylor, 10 Brookfield Park, London NW5 1ER.

CBI wins battle over new YTS scheme

The two-year Youth Training Scheme was approved in principle by the Government this week after last-minute battles over its education content and funding.

The scheme, which starts next April, will offer a minimum of 20 weeks' off-the-job instruction to trainees, while trying to equip them with a recognized qualification.

Education service representatives and TUC members on the group which drew up the scheme pushed for the off-the-job minimum over the two years to be 26 weeks—the present scheme provides 13 weeks in a year—but were successfully opposed by the Confederation of British Industry.

The CBI, worried that the cost of the scheme to employers is a serious disincentive, would have preferred no obligation to pay for off-the-job training.

From April, under transitional arrangements, youngsters already training under the existing scheme will be able to go on for a second year. The new cohort of eligible 16-year-olds will be joined by 17-year-old leavers. But only leavers who are unemployed will be guaranteed a place.

The two age groups joining for the

first time will get a training allowance of £27.30 a week but those embarking on their second year will draw £35 a week.

Single funding replaces the present dual pattern—Mode A, under which employers and some others get a block grant out of which they pay the training allowance, and Mode B under which colleges and colleges are reimbursed their full costs by the Manpower Services Commission.

Everyone taking on youngsters under the scheme will get a basic grant of £160 a month for each place but some will be eligible for an additional premium of £110 a month. There will be a management fee for every place of £110 a year.

The same groups who wanted more off-the-job training fought hard for a higher premium.

They insist that many of the organizations providing schemes for disadvantaged youngsters or in areas where there are not enough places with employers will find it impossible to make ends meet.

But the MSC officials made it plain that the premium could only be raised if the basic grant were lower. The CBI

argued back successfully that a lower basic grant would make it almost impossible to get enough employers to participate.

The total provision of premium places which are intended to replace the existing 85,000 Mode B places has been set at 55,000. Mr Ken Atkinson, director of the YTS, admitted this week that the figure to some extent represented a gamble.

Edited by Mark Jackson

An even bigger gamble, he agreed, was the MSC's calculation that, despite planned attempts to persuade youngsters to stay on the scheme for the full two years, the average length of stay was likely to be somewhere between 68 and 82 weeks.

Funding for the scheme—£1.1 billion a year from 1987 when the scheme will be fully operational—is based on these calculations: if most youngsters do complete two years of training then it will not be enough. New measures are planned to help ensure that the scheme meets its

objective of providing youngsters with better qualifications for the labour market and with purposeful vocational training for a recognized qualification.

These are:

- A licensing system under which only training organizations who satisfy the MSC that they can provide quality training will be approved—this to operate from April 1987.
- The recruitment of a high-powered inspectorate, drawn largely from education and industry but with some specially trained MSC staff, to monitor schemes, advise employers and others, and prepare reports for area manpower boards and nationally. The practice of the MSC team is likely to be modelled closely on that of HM Inspectorate.
- A training agreement for everyone entering the scheme which clarifies the trainees' status and sets out their rights and responsibilities. It would also detail the programme to be provided.

Some youth bodies are worried about the suggestion that the agreement should include an undertaking by the trainee to complete the two-year programme. They say this could be used by the Government to justify

cutting off all benefits from those who leave the scheme prematurely.

But Mr Atkinson said that the undertaking, clearly without legal force, was not intended to be used in this way.

He disclosed that Mr Tom King, Employment Secretary, is taking a close interest in both the proposal for an inspectorate and the trainee agreements.

Mr Atkinson pointed out that Mr King's approval this week covered only the broad outline of the scheme with such vital matters as funding arrangements and trainee allowance. Mr King had reserved the right to decide what should be done over much of the detailed proposals submitted.

Among the issues to be resolved are whether 17-year-olds should automatically go on to the higher rate or whether the increased pay should be tied to a trainee's progress when the scheme is fully operational.

Another, on which much work remains to be done, is certification for those leaving the scheme. The MSC envisaged a YTS certificate which would assess "work place learning" and record vocational education awards.

Off to the night club in search of votes

Labour's leaders last week switched their new campaign to win recognition as the party of youth into high gear.

For three days a battery of shadow ministers concentrated on youth affairs, culminating in the launching of a Labour charter for youth.

A full-scale onslaught on the Government's policies and attitudes towards training and education on Monday was followed by a high-powered seminar at the House of Commons.

This was aimed at Labour local authorities and youth movement representatives, to mobilize support for a radical new local government approach to youth provision set out in a report published on Wednesday.

The details of the report, commissioned by Wolverhampton council, appeared in last week's *TES*: it proposes that local authorities should take on the role of outright champions of the under-25s, defending their interests, giving them high priority for council services, and encouraging them to speak out for themselves.

The thrust of the document, which echoes many of the principles set out in the Government-commissioned Thompson report, which has been virtually ignored by ministers, is highly attractive to the youth lobby nationally.

The shadow ministers, without consulting a future Labour Government, made it plain that they backed the approach and would be likely to intro-



Larry Whitty: cultivating a more youthful image despite the sober suit.

duce complementary policies on coming into office.

Mr Barry Sheerman, the Opposition spokesman on training and youth affairs, who was flanked at the seminar by the shadow education and employment secretaries, has sent copies of the report to every Labour-controlled authority in the country. He urged them to consider adopting its approach without waiting for a change of Government.

Mr Alan Thompson, the former DES senior official who produced the national report on youth provision three years ago, told the seminar that he welcomed the proposals but urged that more thought should be given as

to how the local authority power structure would need to be changed to ensure that they were carried out effectively.

On Thursday the Labour front-benchers went to a Soho night-club to launch the charter, which commits the party to introduce a £27-a-week maintenance grant to pupils staying on after 16 in full-time education and to a £36 minimum for those in training schemes.

The charter sets out a right for all pupils to good-quality comprehensive education; at least two years of education, training, and work experience for school leavers; more jobs and training opportunities for young peo-

ple and—in line with urgent calls made in both the Thompson and Wolverhampton reports—the right to housing.

Mr Larry Whitty, the party's new general secretary, told *The TES*: "We want to listen to young people and to find out what they need and want. This is just the start."

Ms Valerie Phillips, a National Union of Students vice-president—one of several hundred students and youth organization members invited to the charter launch—said: "This new attitude is very welcome indeed. It is time the political parties started taking young people seriously."

DES service for hearing-impaired is flawed, says deafness group

by Susannah Kirkman

The DES is basing provision for deaf children on "seriously flawed and inadequate" educational principles, according to the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

The "superficial" categorization of pupils into "deaf" and "partially hearing" is not particularly useful, says the RNID's response to the DES document, *Provision for Hearing-Impaired Children in Special Schools*.

The RNID insists that the abilities of the individual child and the needs and wishes of the family should be the overriding consideration when i.e.s are deciding what sort of provision to make.

The institute also criticizes the DES for suggesting that a choice of teaching methods in different regions should only be retained where it already

exists, rather than encouraging the provision of a range of options. In the north west, for instance, there are only two schools offering the "total communication" approach, which teaches sign language as well as lip-reading and other communication methods.

Mr Gordon Mitchell, the RNID's education officer, said the DES was using arbitrary figures to determine the closure of special schools. "The department just looks at the number of pupils in an individual school, not at the needs of the children or the needs of the area," he said.

Mr Mitchell blames some of the shortcomings of the DES document on the inadequacies of the regional reports on which it is based. Each region tackled its survey of special schools for hearing-impaired children in a different

way and statistics were gathered on a different basis, he said. And the highest rate of return of the questionnaires sent out to special schools was in the south east, which only had a 50 per cent sample.

The DES had also failed to consider special units attached to mainstream schools, the RNID document said. It was illogical to suggest that small special schools were undesirable when many units offered very similar provision.

And the RNID warned against "integration on the cheap" under the 1981 Act. Placing a hearing-impaired child in a school with a full range of specialist subject teachers does not "ensure that the child has greater access to a wide curriculum than would be found in a 'special school'", according to the document.

The National Association of Governors and Managers has drawn up a training package that can be used by organizations to provide basic training for school governors.

This year, each school has to have its own governing body, with elected parent and teacher representatives.

Only about 45 per cent of education authorities provide training for governors.

The training model is available from the NAGM. Contact: Felicia Taylor, 10 Brookfield Park, London NW5 1ER.

1986 to be 'Industry Year' in Britain's schools

An all-out drive to establish closer links between schools and industry is planned for next year. The campaign, supported by a wide range of educational bodies headed by the Royal Society of Arts, and by industry itself will be called "Industry Year".

The campaign, set up with a £500,000 grant from the Department of Trade and Industry, has appointed an education working group headed by Dr George Tolley, former director of the Open Tech and of Sheffield poly, to set targets. They will aim to:

- Link every secondary school in the country and as many primary schools

as possible with local companies and industries.

- Encourage industry weeks in schools and colleges.
- Increase the provision of in-service teacher training to develop students' understanding of industry, involving wherever possible the use of industrialists.

- Stimulate awareness in teacher training of the role of industry; the group wants all courses to include an industry module—and to bring industry into the training.
- Improve and develop links between higher and further education and industry.

The MSC should also lay on extra training to help MSC managers and careers officers judge the suitability of training and facilities for deaf trainees. YTS staff who have no previous experience of working with deaf young people will need training in communication skills.

And an information service should be set up to make managing agents, careers officers and managers aware of the support services in FE colleges and voluntary organizations which already exist for deaf youngsters.

At present, YTS equipment and travel grants are only geared towards physically disabled trainees. But if the MSC gives an additional grant to managing agents for schemes with deaf trainees, it would then have to do the same for other disabled groups.

Hawke loses his school friends

AUSTRALIA

Luis Garcia on why the national teachers' federation is no longer enamoured of the Labour Government

The rift between the Federal Labour Government and the Australian Teachers' Federation over the public funding of private schools has turned into a gulf.

At the heart of the resumed dispute between the two one-time friends is the Government's recent decision to slash education spending by \$A.73 million as part of a billion dollar austerity package.

These cuts have been described by the federation's president, Ms Jennie George, as short-sighted and hypocritical. Ms George said that the 160,000-member federation, one of the largest and most powerful trade unions in Australia, would seek the support of other unions and the Australian Council of Trade Unions to force the Government to back down.

Teachers, she added, expected a Labour Government to give priority to improving quality in education and equal opportunities for all students, especially those from disadvantaged groups.

The cuts will hurt almost all educational sectors, including pre-schools (where all Federal subsidies have been terminated), technical colleges (a cut in capital works funding), school libraries, and tertiary students (eligibility criteria for allowances will be tightened).

But what has upset the Federation and other public school groups most appears to be the fact that the cuts will have little, if any, direct effect on private schools, which have escaped the Government's razor almost unscathed.

The unkindest cut is the one which will virtually emasculate the Participation and Equity Program (PEP), the Government's much-vaunted scheme to encourage more students to stay on for the final two years of senior secondary school and to "open up" the education system to the children of poor and disadvantaged families. Funds for the programme will be halved.

Only a few months ago, the programme was described by Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, as "one of the cornerstones of the Labour Party's education policy". But it has not delivered the political kudos many ministers expected.

National Teachers' Union, Ms Cassandra Parkinson, said the cuts would make it even more difficult for students to go to places in technical colleges. Already, she said, thousands of potential students were being turned away every year because of a shortage of places.

Only a third of South African white schools offer an African language to pupils and even when they do, most children prefer to learn a European language instead.

As a result, a white child is more likely to learn French or German than one of the four black languages spoken by 60 per cent of the country's inhabitants.

A recent survey of schools in the Cape province showed that less than 23 per cent of white schools offer a black language to pupils.

The general secretary of the Transvaal Teachers' Association, Mr Jack Ballard, said communication among races was "an essential problem" in South Africa.

"Forget learning the grammar or studying the literature. What we need is more people who can speak African languages fluently," he advised.

Unfortunately, most white children prefer to learn a European language. French, German or Italian have a far higher status in schools than African languages. And parents believe they are of more use in the long run.

But there are other factors hampering the teaching of black languages in white schools. It is difficult for schools to decide which is the most useful black



Flight from war: refugees from the bloody confrontation between Iraq and Iran have found asylum and the chance of a new life in Denmark.

Gulf War refugees strain service

DENMARK

Christopher Follett on the increase in education for immigrants

60 full-time teachers and 900 pupils, said, "Iranian and Iraqi refugees present a new challenge to us."

"They are unlike our traditional refugees in that they are generally very well-educated and ambitious, our task being to teach them Danish with crash courses so that they can continue further education here in normal Danish universities, technical colleges, vocational training centres and the like, and find work in the end."

The state-financed Danish Refugee Aid Organization now runs 19 language schools, six of them permanent institutions. A year ago there were only two permanent language schools - in Copenhagen and Denmark's second city, Aarhus, in Jutland - along with two temporary establishments.

Before the present refugee influx, the organization employed 100 teachers. Today, 500 teachers are needed to cope with some 6,000 pupils from 20 nations, compared with only 1,000 last summer.

Most refugees are aged 22 to 28, male and single. There are kindergarten facilities for children, but few have come to Denmark in the latest wave of refugees.

After receiving political asylum, the refugee has to undergo an intensive 18-month-long Danish language course, receiving between four to six hours of teaching per day. The course takes the refugee pupil up to the equivalent of O level in Danish; there are also more advanced Danish courses for those wishing to go on to university.

There are two streams - technical Danish and linguistic/humanistic Danish. The technical stream is geared to refugees intending to continue in vocational training, technical colleges, or take apprenticeships in industry/agriculture, while the linguistic line is intended for those intending to study arts at university or other institutes of



higher education. Previously Danish language courses for refugees were only of three months' duration.

"High unemployment and the economic recession in Denmark have put a greater onus on education for refugees," Mr Mortensen said, "but our new Middle Eastern students do very well, integrating relatively easily into Danish society, and show a very high level of motivation on the whole."

It is estimated that each refugee costs the Danish state approximately £8,500 per annum; although government subsidies for the Danish Refugee Aid Organization, which totalled a meagre £5 million in 1984, could exceed £23 million this year, the brunt of the additional costs in the education sector are borne by local authorities.

The sudden steep rise in the number of refugees is due to a liberalization of Denmark's Alien Laws last year. Denmark's frontier police may not now take refugee entry to refugees, who are guaranteed a hearing for their applications for political asylum by the Danish authorities.

Old solutions to the problems of the young

EEC

Anne Good assesses the EEC's long-awaited youth policy paper

The European Commission's new policy paper on young people has turned out to be something of a disappointment.

It was thought that new approaches to employment, education or vocational training might be announced to mark International Youth Year. But the Commission has confined itself to the tired old calls for job-creation through economic growth, more training in new technologies and increasing young people's mobility.

It also promises continued special assistance for disadvantaged young people and action to improve equality of opportunity, especially for girls, migrants and disabled young people.

Yet again the Commission has sounded the alarm on youth unemployment. More than five million of the Community's 48 million young people between 15 and 25 are without jobs, 1.5 million of them for more than a year. The rate of unemployment among the young is three times that of the rest of the working population.

The United Kingdom's youth unemployment rate of 38.8 per cent puts it fourth on the list after Italy (47.6 per cent), Luxembourg (47.4 per cent) and France (44.1 per cent) and well ahead of West Germany whose 24.6 per cent is the lowest in the Community.

One of the few new ideas in the paper is an emphasis on young people's participation in decision-making which affects them. The Commission is contributing to this process by funding a series of seminars to exchange ideas and experience.

Another breakthrough in Commission policy is signalled by the fact that the "cultural diversity" of the EEC, represented by its 3.5 million young people of foreign origin, is described as an asset. But the Commission warns that without action on their behalf "taken in the context of an all-out assault on racism, these young people will be unable to bring to the Community the economic, social and cultural enrichment which earlier generations of migrants took to the USA."

Teenage suicide nears epidemic proportions

UNITED STATES

Bill Norris reports on action to launch prevention programmes

One American youngster will take his or her life every 90 minutes, on average. Of the country's 19 million high school seniors, almost two million - 11 per cent - have attempted suicide at some time in their lives.

And that is not all. Youth surveys conducted by the Youth Suicide National Centre show that up to 52 per cent of these pupils have made plans to commit suicide but have not gone through with it.

Teenage suicide in the United States has reached almost epidemic proportions. It is now claiming at least 5,200 lives each year, and is the second leading cause of death among young people, after road accidents.

These figures may be understated. Many suicides masquerade as car crashes, accidental drug overdoses or food poisoning.

The problem has reached such serious proportions that the White House has become involved. Nancy Reagan, already involved with the campaign to stop drug abuse, has recorded a public service announcement telling young people: "We need you and we don't want to lose you." It is to be transmitted by 500 television stations.

Last week saw the first national conference on youth suicide in Washington, attended by 650 health care professionals, researchers, government officials and concerned parents. They learned that the youth suicide rate has tripled since 1955, with boys four times more likely than girls to kill themselves. Among white males between 15 and 19, the suicide rate

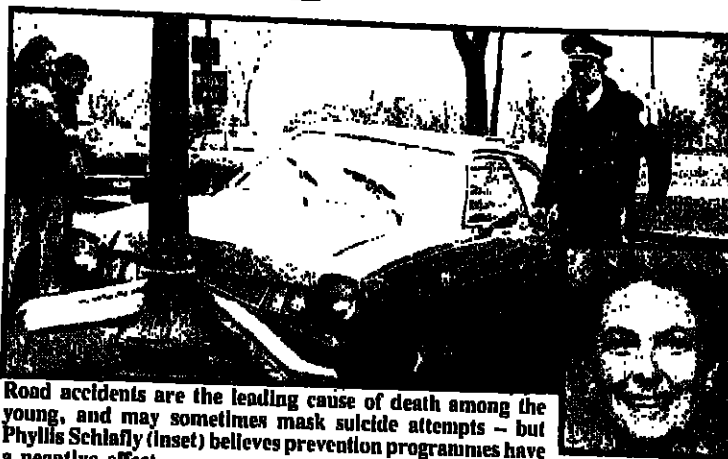
rose 60 per cent between 1970 and 1982.

Those most at risk seem to be youths who are very impulsive and aggressive, followed by victims of child abuse, pregnant teenagers, and those with a family history of suicide.

A new phenomenon are the so-called "suicide clusters" when one self-inflicted death triggers several others over the next few days or weeks. It happened recently in Westchester, New York, and in Plinio, Texas, and according to one expert may be caused by dramatization of the suicides in the media.

An inter-agency task force on the problem has now been launched, and is expected to complete its report in January 1987.

Meanwhile, at least three pieces of legislation are pending on Capitol Hill, one of which would authorize more than \$18 million (£14 million) over three years to establish suicide prevention programmes. Another would let states compete for grants to develop



Road accidents are the leading cause of death among the young, and may sometimes mask suicide attempts - but Phyllis Schafly (inset) believes prevention programmes have a negative effect.

classroom curricula in suicide prevention.

Work of this kind is already going on in California, where the state's education department set up a programme three years ago calling for teacher training, school curriculum changes, and the development of awareness among parents.

School personnel are trained to recognize potential suicides, and then to provide the proper counselling - persuading the youngsters that their desperate feelings will pass. The result has been a four-fold increase in those identified as being at risk.

But California's programme is one of the very few on suicide prevention. And some people would prefer to keep it that way: Phyllis Schafly, president of the right-wing Eagle Forum, for one.

"Many parents who have been through the suicide experience," she says, "believe that the classroom courses which discuss suicide are the cause of teenage suicide, and therefore they cannot be a preventive."

Christine Odono looks at how teachers are breaking the silence on child sexual abuse

Good and bad touches

American educators are mounting a full-scale attack on the once unspoken problem of child sexual abuse.

From Ohio to Oregon, schools are developing programmes which teach children how to spot and avoid child molesters, and how to deal with the aftermath of abuse. California is in the vanguard with a \$11.25 million scheme to expand its existing sex-abuse programme in public schools.

The programmes being implemented include teacher-led discussions and classroom plays. Primary school teachers point out the difference between a "bad" and a "good" touch, encourage children to complain about any too-close-for-comfort situation that might be forced upon them, and stress the importance of not feeling guilt or shame in these situations.

The National Education Association, the country's largest teacher union, has developed special kits (consisting of booklets, hand-outs, films) which offer guidelines for the programmes. *Safety, Touch and Me* is one, sent out by the Montgomery County board of education. Chapter headings include "Human Touch", "How to Say No", and "Teacher's Role".

The kit emphasizes the importance of the teacher, both as confidante and detector, and includes a section on clues in identifying the victim of child abuse: sexual themes in his art work, unusual terminology - sex-related vocabulary that is atypical for his age range - difficulty in walking or sitting, complaints of pain in the genital areas.

Classroom plays form the core of the majority of public school programmes. Real-life situations are depicted, in which an adult - babysitter, neighbour or relative - attempts to gain unseemly intimacy with a child. The actors are chosen from the classroom, or, in the case of very young children, puppets

would be detrimental to society in the long run.

Such a measure would, he warned, foster religious discrimination against those who do not pray in public and would be forced to leave the room during prayer time, thereby causing them to be identified as different from their peers.

Meanwhile, Senator Hatch's other claim to fame in educational circles, the so-called "Hatch amendment" which limits psychological testing in schools and allows parents to inspect classroom materials, has come under fire from the National School Boards Association. Claiming that a recent survey shows that most schools found the regulations "confusing and unnecessary", the NSBA has called for their repeal.

Bill Norris

and dolls are used.

The audience is encouraged to voice its reactions to an offending adult or to a victim who is thought to be too passive.

The American media, too, are becoming increasingly involved in educating children about child molesters and possible danger situations.

Several television programmes have dealt with the subject. In the past year, and a special edition of the popular *Spiderman* comic strip has been published, dealing with the same theme.

Many educators are enthusiastic about the impact which these concerted efforts have already made.

Ms Joan Danzanski, the executive director of the Washington DC branch of the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, says "Many more children are coming up to their teachers with confessions of abuse. And teachers, who used to be afraid of dealing with this particular problem, are now much more aware of how to recognize, and how to react to, children who have been through this trauma. A definite improvement has already been made."

Even his limited proposal is likely to meet with opposition. Giving evidence before the subcommittee last week, Norman Redlich, dean of New York University College of Law, warned that it was clearly intended to promote religion and encourage prayer, which

would be detrimental to society in the long run.

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Truth and facts

Sir - In her review of Roger Scruton's new publication, *Education and Indoctrination*, Mary Warnock (TES, June 7) says that Scruton and his co-authors "have certainly shown that bad education exists, and indeed that it is apparently encouraged within certain education authorities and teachers' courses". She then quotes, to explain her point about bad education, something I once wrote.

I say to teachers, it is claimed by Mary Warnock and Roger Scruton: "Your commitment should be to justice, not to truth." I have two immediate objections, the one relatively trivial and the other quite substantial. The more trivial objection is to the use of the present tense ("he says to teachers") and to the claim that the words quoted were addressed primarily to people in the i.e.s. where I work. The truth is that the quotation is from an article written for an international magazine some three years ago, and so far as I know virtually no one in my i.e.s. has ever read it.

The much more serious objection is that the sentence about truth and justice is quoted out of context. In my original article I recalled that in situations of oppression and injustice to be neutral is in effect to give support to the oppressor: such support cannot be

justified, I remarked, with an appeal to "truth". Aware, however, that the statement "your commitment should be to justice not to truth" could be misunderstood, even when preceded by an explanation that the term "truth" was being used as a false synonym for "neutrality", I added immediately that I was not recommending or condoning inaccuracy or dishonesty. The very next sentence, after the one quoted by Mary Warnock and Roger Scruton, was: "Facts should be accurate, not fake or distorted, and you should always be on your guard against fantasy and wishful thinking."

I assume that Mary Warnock has not read the original article of three years ago, and that she has been misled by Roger Scruton.

I do not mind him criticizing me, nor do I mind him implying, as he does, that people with political views such as mine should not be employed as i.e.s. advisers. I do, however, think that he should not misrepresent me. I put it to him, and to his friends and supporters, that one of the most elementary qualities of the educator, as distinct from the indoctrinator, is respect for factual accuracy.

ROBIN RICHARDSON
Berkshire advisory service
Shire Hall
Reading

Neutrals attacked

Sir - I enjoyed reading the response of Jean Ruddock and Maurice Plaskow (TES, June 21) to the current indoctrination debate and it was a pleasure to be reminded yet again of the sagacity of Lawrence Steinhouse.

But it was a further and delightful irony that, on the same day, I came across an extract from Hansard for the 1976 House of Commons debate on the future of the Schools Council. "My objection is root and branch. It includes the humanities programme of Mr Steinhouse. Not many people are

neutral about that programme, although the teacher in charge of it was supposed to be neutral. In fact I have never met a neutral teacher nor would I want one to teach in any school with which I was connected. I would rather have someone with real blood in his veins, who knew what side he was on."

That was Dr Rhodes Boyson. Nowadays, it seems to depend upon which side you are on.

CHRIS EVANS
Countesthorpe College
Winchester Road
Leicester



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Where Sir Keith agrees with the radical activists

Sir - The substantive report of Sir Keith Joseph's speech to the Geographical Association (TES, June 21) and the released, full text seem at variance in several ways with the interpretation in your front-page article.

Headlines can mislead: directly before the supposed "warning" which you quote that geographers should be clear what they have to offer, Sir Keith had been asserting and commending the distinctive role of geography as a bridge between humanities and sciences; directly afterwards he said: "I wish to emphasize that geography has an important place in the primary as well as in the secondary phase". These might as easily have made the headline, and were, in my view, much more representative of the general positive tone of the speech about geography.

To take another point - unlike your

correspondent, I did not find that Sir Keith's remarks highlighted "veiled criticisms of radical activists". His criticisms of approaches to Third World teaching were clearly directed towards simplistic determinism rather than political bias.

Sir Keith went out of his way to assure a questioner that he felt that there were no limits (within the law) to the opinions which might properly be expressed during school geography lessons, provided that they were subject to the tests of evidence and argument. It was perhaps surprising, but none the less encouraging, to hear the Secretary of State openly accept that geography is a value-laden subject and that complex and controversial issues should not be ducked within it.

So-called "radical activists" have had a stimulating and invigorating effect on geography in recent years. They have helped to put the geo-

graphical implications of race, gender, class and poverty issues high on the teaching agenda. But most of them are to be found arguing for precisely the same point as Sir Keith; that a variety of viewpoints should be put before pupils on contentious issues.

In such straitened times, the practical lack of resource provision and of adequate remuneration for teachers gives some educational exhortation a hollow ring. But it is surely welcome enough at any time to have a Minister of the Crown affirm support for open and democratic procedures in classrooms and to propose the examination rather than the propagation of ideology, whether from left or right.

REX WALFORD
Lecturer in geography and education
University of Cambridge



Geography's frontier fences should be pulled down.

geography teachers to talk to teachers of history, economics, sociology, politics and integrated humanities.

Not one speaker suggested that geographers should work in collaboration with their colleagues in related disciplines to work out a coherent

approach to the humanities as a whole, and to act as a much needed cross-curricular pressure group.

The GA and bodies like it are reflections of an education system with a top-down, single subject approach to curriculum development that might have been appropriate for grammar and independent schools in the past, but on this showing, are largely irrelevant for curriculum development for comprehensive schools in the late 1980s.

At a time when the humanities are under tremendous pressure from vocationalism, maths, science and technology, the idea of the GA organizing itself to fight its only potential allies for limited space on a crowded curriculum is an educational cul-de-sac.

Geographers will only do their subject long-term harm if they continue to look inwards and upwards for their salvation.

JOHN SIMPSON
82 York Road
Mistpet
Bristol

Paranoia reigns

Sir - In 1963 as a newly-graduated geographer I was sent by VSO to the Sudan. The military government of the day decreed that geography was too sensitive a subject to entrust to an expatriate. I accepted this extraordinary decision with youthful good nature, and set about teaching *Twelfth Night* to Arabic-speaking boys.

Now the paranoia of political bias pervades the education system of dear old England. Geographers are chastised by the Secretary of State for looking at major world problems. Back to Capes (Canaveral?) and Bays (Pig?)

Meanwhile, the area I worked in and loved in western Sudan is devastated by drought. Am I forbidden to explain the situation to my pupils for fear of implying that we in Britain should be concerned for the sufferers?

RODNEY USHER
110 Wyatt Park Road
London SW2



Jewish refugees were the target of the first serious attempt at immigration control.

er two peoples who remain in many respects one and have already been divided quite enough.

ROBERT JEFFCOATE
6 Riverside Road
Liverpool

Different goals

Sir - When some trendy radicals picked up a football and ran with it they were actually inventing a new game. This must have been very disconcerting to those who thought they were playing a different game; some haven't recovered yet.

Much the same is true of those whose only criterion for "success" in the education system is the percentage of GCE passes at A and O levels.

The relevance of these examinations either to young people or national needs has been increasingly questioned even by some of their architects (see Professor Jack Wrigley's essay in the recent book on *The Life & Death of the Schools Council*).

Certainly the curricula they reflected to secondary schools and the sense and sensitivity of norm-referenced tests have been largely undermined: otherwise why the proposed GCSE, criterion-referencing everyone is to be at least average now... and the introduction of the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative as a way of shocking schools into new approaches?

I fear Fred Naylor, and those who sincerely believe in a divisive system, can't ever accept that the rules have changed, because the values have changed. Comprehensive education

Spurious statistics

Sir - I was astounded to see that you felt it to publish a "Second Opinion" article by Fred Naylor (June 21) without comment, particularly as the debate on the efficacy of comprehensive education has been subject to much criticism for reasons of spurious statistical analysis.

I am agnostic on the question of comprehensive schools and I will restrict my comments to the measure of achievement singled out by Naylor except where this must be evaluated in a broader context. I certainly accept Naylor's contention that the achievement of two or more GCE A level passes is one important measure by which the system can be judged.

Having rightly criticized White Paper for using the "Mid-1960s" as a sloppy way of defining a base for comparison, Naylor proceeds to examine the same spurious statistic, the percentage of school-leavers with two or more A levels, albeit with more precision. The statistics should only be used when the "population" exhibiting a particular characteristic comprises a set of the "population at risk", that is, those having the opportunity of exhibiting the characteristic at the time in question.

Naylor comments on "the doubling of the success rate between 1962 and 1968" and its increase by 69 per cent between 1962 and 1965. Common sense suggests that such a remarkable state of affairs requires further investigation. The reason it occurred is primarily attributable to an incorrect



The relevance of O and A levels is increasingly questioned.

ought to mean what it says: education of equal quality for everyone, in order to develop knowledge, understanding, skills and the "lively, enquiring minds" which all those DES documents since the 1977 Green Paper have put at the top of the list of educational aims.

MAURICE PLASKOW
Chairman
RICE (Right to Comprehensive Education)
and PRISE (Programme for Reform in Secondary Education)

specification of the "population at risk". Put more simply, using school-leavers as the ratio denominator is inappropriate because a majority of school-leavers in any particular year will not, by virtue of their age, have had the opportunity to take A level examinations in that year or earlier.

If I were to have to define an appropriate statistic for initial examination it would probably be the number of pupils leaving state schools with two or more A levels or a percentage of those entering fourth form in state schools four years previously. Even this would be open to question; the statistic, because it would not take account of movement between the state and private sectors in the four years in question, and the examination because it would take no account of long-run shifts in the state sector-private sector mix.

Returning to the statistic actually

used by Naylor, it is easy to show that demographic fluctuations would account for most of the variation in the reported statistic. For the sake of argument, assume that of a cohort entering fourth form at secondary school 80 per cent leave at the end of the school year (and this further assumes a statutory leaving age of 15 years) 20 per cent embark on a two year sixth-form course of study and that 10 per cent achieve two or more A level passes. Let the numbers entering fourth form in four observation years be 500, 1000 800 and 600.

The tables below show how the above conditions can be satisfied whilst producing "Naylor-type" fluctuations.

Table A			
Year of fourth form entry	Total Numbers entering	Year of Statutory School-leaving	Numbers Leaving
1968	500	1969	400
1969	1000	1970	800
1970	800	1971	640
1971	600	1972	480

Table B			
Year of leaving school	Total school leavers	Leavers with 2+ A levels	Other leavers
1968	800	50	750
1969	800	100	700
1970	800	80	720
1971	640	64	576

From Table A, which clearly shows identical performance in the case of all four "school-leaver ratios" given in Table B can be deduced.

correspondents has challenged my exposition of the rationale behind the use of picture stories; it would be difficult to do so without renouncing the cost of "information gap" which all agree is at the heart of authenticity. Nor did anyone propose a better way of testing this use of language, or suggest that it should not be tested. Why? This, after all, was the real point at issue.

Perhaps the answer is to be found in Mr Wall's letter, where he suggests that it is not acceptable because it has been used in some non-communicative examinations. But that could equally be an argument for abandoning the conversation test, and he is not advocating that!

The personal comments are hardly worth mentioning, and reflect little credit on those who stoop to such a level. Those who know me well will be well aware that the things that have been said about me are untrue, whilst those who do not know me are not guilty to being inaccurately honest, even if it means expressing an unfavourable view. Where are the honest replies? I think my critics have proved my point for me.

TONY WHELFORD
25 Hartley Way
Cheltenham, Glos

Letters for publication should be kept as brief as possible and typed on one side of the paper only. The Editor reserves the right to cut or amend them.

LETTERS

Comprehensives pass A level test

Sir - Why does Fred Naylor (TES, June 14) not give credit to the comprehensive schools for closing the gap between the performance at A level of boys and girls? He seems to imply that this was some irresistible natural force which even the comprehensives could neither dam nor divert.

No doubt he does accept that schools which select their intake on the basis of proven academic performance are almost bound to achieve good A level results; and that in so far as the Assisted Places Scheme has enabled them to fill more of their places with such youngsters, rather than topping up with those whose parents can afford to pay, their results are likely to show further improvement.

What Fred Naylor's own figures show is that there has been no deterioration in A level results in the comprehensives, despite the endless suggestion to the contrary in the

media, with the consequent tendency of parents to withdraw their brighter children, and so to make more difficult the maintaining, let alone improving, of those results.

What, of course, the figures entirely fail to show is what the comprehensives are slowly learning to do for those who are "non-academic" - perhaps by some at present irresistible force - who make up the bulk of our population and upon whose self-confidence and self-respect the quality of our community relies at least as heavily as it does upon the academically successful.

And that is something which, despite all the inconsistencies, we can believe that Sir Keith Joseph genuinely cares about.

DONALD FRITH
3 Elmfield Terrace
Kilburn,
York

I could be accused of selecting demographic "inputs" to support my contention. I certainly have, but these data are a close reflection of what actually happened in the years concerned. Children entering fourth-form secondary in the years listed in the first table were born in the following August to August periods: 1943-4, 1946-7, 1949-50 and 1952-3. Low birth rates prevailed during the war. The numbers born recorded a massive peak in 1946 (there are more 38½-39½-year-olds alive today than any other single age group) which declined to record a temporary low during the Korean War.

Furthermore, the numbers born then increased gradually to reach a peak in 1964 after which they declined again until the late 1970s. These later trends account for the smaller increases observed in Naylor's series over the period 1974 to 1980.

I will leave it to experts in education research and statistics to carry out a thorough examination of available statistics. I am sure they are capable of firstly constructing meaningful statistics of achievement and secondly of including in their analyses other "causal factors" than the demographic which account for variations in achievement, both through time and between sectors. However, it is important that inferences about the education system based on poor analysis are not allowed to pass without question.

DAVID GLEAVE
61 Holmesdale Road
London N6

You will not be surprised, therefore, if following my article you receive such a letter from the dean of this faculty, in this case making clear that my article was not an official view.

The Inspectorate's behind-the-scenes response to my article of course confirms my thesis that HM Inspectorate will resort to bureaucratic authority rather than open and honest debate.

ROGER HOMAN
Faculty of Education Studies
Brighton Polytechnic

Role change

Sir - The Faculty of Education Studies at Brighton Polytechnic was commended by HM Inspectors during their recent inspection for the ease of communication within the faculty and for the fluency of its students. I and my heads of department, therefore, fully defend the right of Roger Homan to express himself as he did in his article "Power Without Authority" (TES, June 14).

We also accept the force of a number of his arguments but regret that he did not choose to use his considerable verbal skills more positively in seeking to open up a necessary and potentially fruitful debate. Perceptions of colleagues as to our HMI visit have varied and we therefore have difficulty in seeing what was written as a faculty viewpoint.

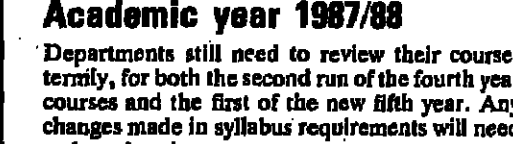
Religion has played a major part in the life of Man throughout his history and today it plays a large part in the lives of the majority of people in the world, whether as part of their personal everyday existence, or merely as a background to their laws and cultures. By showing what people believe and why they believe it, what effects their beliefs have on them and those with whom they come in contact with, we would hope to present young people with the idea that there is a spiritual,

Being a student gives the deaf a chance to show other people what they can do, and that being deaf need not be a handicap. Many deaf students feel that a college or school for the deaf is best at it provides the support of the

For a person to appear on various official documents with a variety of names spells confusion. It smacks of individual freedom having gone completely mad. If Anthony does not care for the name that he was given by his parents he can invite his friends and

This job description for a teacher of children with special needs at Priestley County Primary School, Calne, Wiltshire, was drawn up by the pupils.

to their schools to pass on what they have learnt to their colleagues. Nothing has been allowed for this final stage, and the Association of County Councils claims local authorities could be £10 to £20 million short of what they need. One proposal is to shorten the 1986 school year by 2 days to avoid the problem.



FEATURES

This year, 12 people with a variety of pre-school interests have been on the first training course to be run in this country by the High/Scope Foundation from Michigan, famous both for a carefully planned pre-school curriculum and for follow-up research which established the tangible results of pre-school education.

The course was mounted by VOLCUF - the Voluntary Organisations Council for Under Fives - and the 12 came from a variety of institutions - maintained nursery schools, playgroups, family centres and private nurseries. They had ten weeks on intensive workshops interspersed with practical assignments.

The aim was both to introduce them to this successful American curriculum and to prepare them to train others to use it.

Here, Virginia Makins outlines that curriculum and the research behind it, interviews David Weikart, the founder of High/Scope and (opposite) describes its use British nursery centres.



David Weikart:
"millions of new dollars going into early education"

The relationship created between teacher and child is the key thing in the High/Scope curriculum, according to its founder, David Weikart.

"It's like the joke about the family where the husband takes all the big decisions, like what to do about defence policy and Afghanistan, and the wife takes the small decisions, like what to have for supper and where the family goes on holiday", he said. "With the High/Scope curriculum, the child takes all the important small decisions."

He says it took an unusually long time to get the British venture off the ground - there is particular suspicion here about "structured" American pre-school programmes.

High/Scope, he says, is the only pre-school curriculum that breaks away from the traditional teacher-child relationship. In the highly structured behaviourist American programmes the teacher is obviously in charge.

In the play-centred curriculum, favoured by most British nursery practitioners, the teacher is subtly in charge. "She's at best benign, and often authoritarian, engaged in subtle management, almost harassment, of the children," says Weikart. "Everything centres on the teacher: she says 'I really like that', or 'Do this for me', as though the child is an extension of herself."

"When the practice is good, the play curriculum can be marvellous," he says. "But often, even where the commitment to children is tremendous and the language is great, when you look at what's happening, you find an enormous wastage of time, and that children are often doing exactly what teachers tell them, in a ritualized way."

What High/Scope offers, he says, is "not so much a structure as a methodology. It's not a cookbook - it's very demanding on a teacher's skill and imagination. The teacher must fit in with the children's intentions. If she wants to bring in concepts like number, or spatial relationships, she has to enter into the children's play."

"People here are worried about the idea of structure. But High/Scope doesn't tell them what to do, it gives them a way of thinking about it. The structure provides an open framework that encourages people to innovate."

He believes that agreeing both goals and methods brings benefits you don't get in an unstructured play curriculum. "Often people's goals are way up in the air somewhere, and their methodology is so diverse that they can't discuss it without simply exchanging personal opinions."

"If I go into a High/Scope classroom, and find that the cooperation and talk between children is marvellous, but that the children aren't good at

manipulating materials, we can immediately discuss ways of getting better work with materials without losing the other things."

Weikart stresses that High/Scope does not claim to be a complete programme, and that it keeps developing and building on people's experience. Recently, for example, they've decided it's extremely important to give children opportunities to develop a feeling for simple rhythm and beat.

"It's not complicated, but if it's not deliberately introduced, many children - boys, in particular - don't develop it. If you bring it in at three, 90 per cent of children will develop a sense of beat." He says it's important to be down to earth and specific about such aims - you don't talk vaguely about music, you come down to the level of simple beat.

There's no doubt that some people in Britain have been put off by the mouthful of "The Cognitively-Oriented Curriculum", High/Scope's chosen name.

"People think cognitive means academic, but we mean it in the psychological sense - problem-solving, understanding, conceptualizing. We're finding ways of encouraging children to project, form theories, use language to explain, experiment, try things out - to use scientific method."

He also believes that helping children to make choices, to take responsibility, to gain mastery over concepts and materials is one of the best ways of promoting their social and emotional development.

He says that good High/Scope practice doesn't need too many resources. "People sometimes find themselves throwing away some of their fancy doodads." One "fantastic" programme in Columbia runs on \$100 a year for equipment.

Nor does he feel that the high staffing ratio - one to five - in the original project was necessary. "You can have too many adults - though it would be hard to go much above one to ten."

Weikart is clearly extremely proud of the original High/Scope research. "It's been reviewed over and over again, but it was a sound experiment, and its results relate to other data collected by the police, and other agencies."

"The long-term effect of preschool is simply not an issue any more in the United States," he says. "Millions of new dollars are going into early education." They have just been funded to look at 19-year-olds who attended two other High/Scope nurseries. The data won't be as clean and tidy as the original study, says Weikart, but "if the results check out, I'll laugh all the way to Washington."

HIGH SCOPE

The pre-school curriculum.

The High/Scope pre-school curriculum began in Ypsilanti, Michigan in 1960, when people in the United States were beginning seriously to think how to help "disadvantaged" children.

David Weikart, the main instigator, was then working for the Michigan school system, and he and his colleagues decided to focus particularly on children's cognitive development.

The theory was Piaget's but the practice evolved largely through the work of an Israeli psychologist, Sara Smilansky. Her main contribution was to make sure the children were directly involved in planning their own activities, by a method which is now known, in shorthand, as "Plan - Do - Review".

Children in a High/Scope nursery start each session by planning and telling the teacher what they are going to do. The room is organized into clearly defined areas - a big nursery might have a creative area, with paints and junk for modelling; a brick area, with a variety of different kinds of bricks and toy vehicles; a quiet area with toys such as puzzles and play people and construction sets like Lego or Modulo; a book area; a house area; a discovery area, with animals, plants, lenses, magnets and electrical bits and pieces; a sand and water area; a music area; and an outdoor area.

Different nurseries arrange things differently - High/Scope is designed to provide "flexibility within a clear framework". But there are always distinct named and labelled areas where every piece of equipment has its own labelled place and is available for children to use at any time.

If a child wants to take some play people over to the brick area or some cars to a road he's made in the sand, that's fine - but when he's finished they will be put away in their appointed place.

After "planning time", the children move into "work time", when they carry out their plans. If a child firmly insists that he's going to do nothing, he'll probably be asked to decide where he's going to do nothing.

During "work time", the nursery staff watch the children's play and enter into it to extend it and bring out basic concepts: "Can I put my car in your garage? Will it fit? Have we got enough tea-pots? Ideally, there will also be plenty of local outings, which can lead to more elaborate play.

If a child runs out of steam on a project, the teacher will ask them for their next plan - but experience suggests that the "Plan - Do - Review" approach does greatly extend the time children will spend on one project, and makes for the development of much more complex play.

After "work time" comes "recall time", a fairly formal session with an adult and a small group of eight or ten children. The children describe what they've done, and the teacher can draw out interesting aspects.

Teachers also use the "recall" session to record what children have done, and the records can be used to keep parents in close touch with their children's activities and achievements.

Planned parent involvement is an important ingredient of the High/Scope curriculum, and the High/Scope manuals have detailed ideas about how to run workshops for parents to explain the methods and ideas behind them.

"Recall time" often merges into "small group time", a short session explicitly led by the teacher, where the children do or discuss something together. Every day also has "circle time" when all the children in the nursery come together for a story or an activity; and - last but not least - "clearing up time" when the children put every piece of equipment back into its place.

The basis for teacher's planning and evaluation is a list of about 50 "key experiences" which High/Scope believes all children need if they are to master important skills and concepts. They are divided into five groups: active learning; representation; logical reasoning; and understanding time and space.

Those are then divided and subdivided. Logical reasoning, for example, is broken down into classification, seriation and number concepts. Classification is then divided into several other categories, including investigating and labelling attributes, similarities and differences (sorting and matching); using and describing one thing in different ways; and distinguishing between one and all.

The copybook High/Scope practitioner is supposed to keep the key experiences in mind when observing and playing alongside children, and "planning activities for 'small group time' and 'recall time' and other valuable children's

progress.

The curriculum has been adopted in many countries and cultures, and has been adapted for isolated rural communities in South America, handicapped children, bilingual children and other groups with special needs.

The fullest description of the High/Scope curriculum is *Young Children in Action*, by Mary Hohmann, Bernard Banet and David Weikart, available from the National Children's Bureau, price £14.60 (incl p & p).

What the research shows

Research by the High/Scope Foundation into what happened to children who attended the original Ypsilanti Perry Pre-school Project shows that pre-school education can produce enormous educational, social and economic gains.

All the children in the project were highly disadvantaged, and most were classified as "educable mentally retarded". The project was well funded: the adult:child ratio was one to five and the two-year project involved one and a half hours of home visiting every week.

The foundation has followed 58 children in the project through to the age of 19, together with 65 children who did not have any pre-school experience, but were otherwise carefully matched to the project children.

At the age of 19, 15 per cent of the project children were classified as mentally retarded, compared with 35 per cent of the control group; 67 per cent completed high school, compared with 49 per cent of the others; 38 per cent went on to college or job training, compared with 21 per cent; 50 per cent had jobs, compared with 32 per cent of the control group; 45 per cent supported themselves with their own or their spouse's earnings, compared with 25 per cent; 42 per cent got satisfaction from their work, compared with 26 per cent.

The High/Scope 19-year-olds were less likely to be involved in crime: 31 per cent had been arrested compared with 51 per cent; 24 per cent were charged with crimes involving property or violence, compared with 38 per cent. Fewer were on public assistance (18 per cent compared with 32 per cent) and the girls had fewer babies - 64 per 100 women compared with 117.

Economists calculated that, when it came to benefits for the community, the investment in a high-quality pre-school programme returned \$7 for every \$1 invested.

The most recent report on the longitudinal study is *Changed Lives - High/Scope Press 1984* - which will shortly be available from the National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley St, London EC1, price £12.50 incl p & p.

Children taking responsibility for their own work and small group time (right) give staff the chance to see what under-fives are capable of. Photographs: Hartcliffe Nursery Centre by Chris Gregory.



FEATURES

The British experience

Hartcliffe Nursery Centre, Bristol

Hartcliffe Nursery Centre, in Bristol, was built to provide pre-school care for families who live on local estates - many of them in difficult circumstances.

One end is a day nursery, and the other a nursery school. They are linked by a joint staff room, and share outdoor play areas. Joan Sharp, head of the nursery school, was on the High/Scope course this year.

The school is big, with 120 children coming in two long shifts: one from 8.00 to 12.30, the other from 1.00 to 5.30. Both groups have lunch, and children can have breakfast or tea. The school is open throughout the holidays: staff holidays are staggered through the year.

Each shift has its own staff - with two teachers and four nursery assistants - but because of the staggered holidays, they're rarely all there at once.

Joan Sharp came to Hartcliffe 18 months ago. She and the staff had already decided to make some changes before the High/Scope course came up. It would have been possible to limit the experiment to one room or one shift; instead, the staff decided to put it in the whole school.

As a result, they say the year has been hectic, with great ups and downs in morale: "The children adapted much faster than we did." They feel it will take another year to get the system going properly and assess its results. But they already seem quite excited about it.

Before High/Scope, the L-shaped nursery, which has two large rooms and two small ones, was split into two separate classes, each with 30 children. But before Christmas, they reorganized the whole space High/Scope style, with different areas.

There is a book area; a table toy area (with things like small construction sets and jigsaws); a cooking area; a sand and water area; a home corner; a creative area, with paints and junk modelling; a discovery area, with plants, magnets, electrical bits and scales; and a music area.

All the equipment is on open shelves, and each brick and tool and toy has its place, labelled with a picture or symbol. Clearing up time, towards the end of each shift, is an amazing sight, rather like a speeded-up film, with children putting everything away in its marked place, and staff and children mopping and sweeping and wiping, restoring order in seconds.

All the staff I talked to thought that the reorganization had been a success. It offered children much more choice than the old system where staff chose different things to put out every day. But it also offered greater security: the children knew where everything was from day to day.

"Before there was plenty of variety and stimulus, but there wasn't much continuity in children's play because things changed every day. There's much more purpose to what children do now," said a teacher.

The two shifts plan their days rather differently. But both stick pretty much to the High/Scope division of the day (see details of curriculum, above), and try to get children to plan, however sketchily, what they want to do.

The most obvious change for staff is the "small group time", when they have to devise an activity for a group of eight or ten children. Some seemed

to find this easier than others. But the best sessions seemed to have children productively absorbed. One group had some mirrors, and were discussing reflections. Another was at the water table classifying objects into "sinks" and "floaters", the teacher carefully watching what they were doing and putting it into words: "Look, even when he pushes the pencil down it still floats".

The "work time", the longest session of the High/Scope day, when children get on and do whatever they've planned, looks more familiar to nursery staff. But it may be there that High/Scope has brought the biggest changes.

Several of the staff said that they are now spending much less time managing children's activities, and much more time watching and joining in. "You can see what individual children are capable of, rather than just policing what they're doing," said a teacher.

Certainly, at Hartcliffe, you see the staff joining in children's play for long periods - 10 minutes or more. Meanwhile, other children seemed completely caught up in what they were doing, making handprints not because handprints were the thing that day, but because they had chosen to, or investigating magnets, and the staff had time to stand back and watch them.

As a result of the watching, and also of the specific "planning" and "recall" times, the staff say they have a much clearer picture of how individual children spend their time. Several were surprised to discover how well children thought things out.

After "work time" comes "recall time". Some of the "recall" sessions I saw simply consisted of children cataloguing their activities: "Played with the sand, that's all I done." "Been busy, did a painting and tidied up."

But in some groups there were interesting post-mortems on what had happened - talking about how the consistency of the playdough had changed when the mixture was heated up, or how sand wheels had behaved.

At planning and recall times, the staff keep brief anecdotal records of what children planned, and did, and said about it, and the records give a good picture of children's activities, and can be used to check that a good variety of "key experiences" have been covered.

Both Joan Sharp and Maudo Brown, the Avon nursery adviser, are convinced that the quality of the work of both children and staff has improved with the High/Scope system.

"High/Scope has given us a common language, starting from the same base," said Joan Sharp. "So much in nursery practice is open to misrepresentation: this has made us much more accountable, and has meant we can explain very clearly what we're doing."

"I liked the familiarity of High/Scope - nothing was too different from what we already did. In fact, everything they said on the course, my first reaction was: 'I already know that'. But my second reaction was: 'I know it - but it isn't happening'."

Greenleys Family Centre, Milton Keynes

At Greenleys Family Centre in Milton Keynes, Pat Stace is even more enthusiastic than the Hartcliffe staff about the changes brought about by High/Scope. The centre is run by the National Children's

Home, and works with parents who need help with their lives and their pre-school children. Most parents and children come to the centre together for two or three days a week, but a few children come on their own.

Pat Stace went on the course because someone in another NCH centre had become enthusiastic about High/Scope. "I didn't realize the enormity of the task - I thought it was just another course," she said.

She and another worker have now set up a room on High/Scope lines for a group of about 12 children. Before High/Scope, they chose and put out different activities every day: "It would have been unthinkable for a child to go to a cupboard and help himself." Now everything is laid out in five areas - a house area, brick area, sand and water area, toy area and art area.

"It's greatly extended the children's play," says Pat Stace. "Before some children would simply run a car up and down - now they will begin to build roads and buildings."

At first, she found it quite hard to stand back and watch children, and not to suggest too many ideas and help them out too quickly. But now they do it "almost naturally", and find it's paid off.

"Even with children we knew well before High/Scope, we found out so many new things about their abilities. We used to know what children couldn't do - perhaps because we were setting out the wrong things for them and they gave up."

"Now the children plan to do things they know they can do, and we can take it from there and help them to stretch it. Where they used to scribble, they now do marvellous drawings. Perhaps it's because before they would see pencils and paper on the table and go there with no ideas in mind and just scribble: now they go with a clearer intention."

"High/Scope makes you more aware, and increases your powers of observation and assessment. Before, at case reviews, we would say something like: 'She's no trouble'. Now we can say: 'She can do this, and that, and she can't do this yet but she's learning'."

Pat Stace has used the small group time to do some interesting infant-style work with the children, investigating things like the texture of different materials, with results well displayed on the walls.

She could also point to several examples of work of a quality they never saw before High/Scope. Two children had built a complex, and well-painted, junk model of something that looked like a huge Mississippi paddle steamer, which they called a "boat-train". A child had drawn a carefully-observed bicycle, and another a bicycle wheel, with all its spokes in place.

The children's pictures, on the wall, were explicitly described: "This is John's house. He is indoors, watching TV." "Before we would have just put his name on it, and that's it," said Pat Stace.

The system has worked well with children who have speech difficulties, and also with a hyperactive child, who simply rushed around at first: "We had to keep catching him and getting him to choose an area to work in. Now he still has a short concentration span - but he'll choose an activity, settle down to it for a bit, and get results."

Pat Stace believes that all the children have changed significantly since they adopted High/Scope. With some it's been "a roaring success, and changed their whole way of playing. With others - perhaps the brighter children - it's had less of an impact."

The VOLCUF evaluation

The effects of the training partnership between High/Scope and the Voluntary Organisations Council for Under Fives is being evaluated by a team from Oxford University Department of Social and Administrative Studies.

Kathy Sylva, Teresa Smith and Elizabeth Moore have published an interim report, giving some of the reactions of the participants and the agencies that sponsored them.

They had been attracted by several features of the method: as a counter to what they saw as a general *laissez faire* attitude - "You mustn't push a child"; for its notion of helping a child to make choices and to plan; for its rigour and clarity; and as a practical way of approaching children.

They felt High/Scope would be good for staff development and standards: "Some of the programmes in our preschool settings are pretty sloppy." "We want to achieve a higher standard of work with under-fives."

Half-way through the course, most of the participants reported that many of their fears about the rigidity of the curriculum and its compatibility soon disappeared. But most could see at least one obstacle to implementing the curriculum - lack of time, lack of money, resistance from staff, resistance from parents, inadequate premises.

The researchers have also observed children in five of the ten demonstration centres both before and after the implementation of High/Scope, to see if there are changes in children's behaviour and the complexity of their play. A full report will be published later this year.

One or two of the participants have marked reservations about both the course and the curriculum. One problem they all found was that there was no High/Scope centre in action that they could observe and visit.

"We had to buy it before we knew what we were buying," said Val Angle, a tutor with the Greater London Pre-School Playgroup Association. Now she has seen people trying to implement it in an already successful playgroup she feels: "I wouldn't adopt it as a package. I don't feel it's giving a great deal to the standard child. It might have more to offer for children with special needs, or for older children."

The playgroup where it was introduced runs two sessions a day. They kept to their ordinary practice in the mornings, and tried High/Scope in the afternoons. Val Angle says that they found the High/Scope routine "rather bitly, in a two-hour session". It interrupted the flow of play.

"They already had a very good way with children, relaxed and very observant," she said. "They found that the normal PPA morning sessions were more enjoyable, and felt that the children got more out of them and had a more interesting time," she said.

One problem with High/Scope in Britain is that a curriculum designed for three, four and five-year-olds is being implemented only for threes and younger fours.

One or two schools have already expressed an interest in workshops which this year's guinea pigs will be running next year. If those create enough response, VOLCUF and High/Scope may run another full-scale course in 1986.



Review

A History of the Soviet Union. By Geoffrey Hosking. Fontana £4.95. 0 00 686000 1. Collins £12.95. Soviet Economy and Society. By David Lane. Basil Blackwell £8.95. 0 631 13876 5. State and Politics in the USSR. By David Lane. Basil Blackwell £8.95. 0 631 13873 0.

It is distressing that a review of works of such disparate quality as these should concentrate on the less worthy. But whereas a conscientious reviewer can safely leave a judicious, maturely pondered and fair history to do its work secure in the knowledge that its effect will be salutary, he is in duty bound, when something seriously misleading falls into his hands, to show it to be so, in the hope of mitigating its consequences.

Unlike Hosking's work, which is a first-rate introduction to Russian history since 1917, the two volumes by Lane are a prime example of how an apparent objectivity and impartiality can cloak a partisan, in this instance pro-Soviet, approach. The works give the impression of thorough research and scholarship, and this they are, provided one bears in mind the standpoint determining the range of what has been taken to be relevant, and its interpretation.

It will be as well, before proceeding, to anticipate the objection that what follows does not give a "fair" impression of Lane's work, by asking what different treatment might have been possible that would have avoided the comment. I might, for instance, have devoted most of this review to considering whether Lane has any legitimate grounds for taking it virtually for granted that post-1917 Russia has ceased to be a capitalist society. (ie that, in Marx's terms, production for use has there replaced production for exchange); and that it is no longer, consequently, a class society, but a worker's state, albeit perhaps of a somewhat peculiar nature. This would have involved considering whether it is possible to take seriously the so-called "theoretical" discussions of the matter produced in Russia with, necessarily, official approval; and considering what judgement should be passed on someone who treats these as though they were the fruit of an untrammelled critical examination, and as though they were not uncritical in fundamental respects, owing to the regimentation of thought that remains an essential feature of post-Stalinist Russian society.

To be "fair" to Lane would have been to leave out of account everything controversial in these two works that might reflect on his approach. This would, however, have given a quite false impression. It would, moreover, have been grossly "unfair" to those for whom the review is intended, to those who read it to be informed about how the writer has used the material at his disposal, that is, how trustworthily the result is. This is especially necessary in dealing with a work about Russia that in the nature of the subject lends itself to partisan treatment, the more so when the publishers proclaim it to be "indispensable to Soviet specialists and students of economic, social and political studies".

In *State and Politics in the USSR*, there is a historical excursus, some of which perforce deals with Stalin. Here the extent of the terror is played down by giving only the number of inmates of the labour camps at any one time, put at about 5,000,000 in 1939. However, their expectation of life is not considered, so that one has no notion of the "turnover" in terms of which alone the numbers who perished can be computed - a number which alone can give some idea of the horror of the period. Hosking, discussing the matter, suggests that the "casualties of the Stalin terror" totalled 15-20 million.

Lane's treatment of the labour camps contrasts with his comments on the war which, he writes, "was to be a nightmare experience for the USSR lost 20 million people". Implicit here is a comparison between the war and the camps which makes the latter seem very much less terrible than usually believed. But the comparison is invalid; for it to be legitimate, the deaths in both instances are what should be given. And then, if Hosking's figures are to be credited, it becomes plain that they are on a par.

Later, in a totally different connection - a comparison of Lenin and Stalin - there is this quotation: "Stalinism was excess, extraordinary extremism... It was not... merely coercive policies, but a virtual civil war against the peasants; not merely police repression, or even civil war style terror, but a holocaust that victimised tens of millions of people for twenty-five years...". The effect is plain: against the pages of supposedly measured, impartial treatment of Stalin that have come before, against the one-sided examination of the numbers of inmates in labour camps that "left out of account" the



and a fictional version: Tom Courtenay in the title role of "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich"

Being fair to Russia

PIERRE WATTER looks at two new competitors in the Soviet studies marketplace. One he judges to be excellent, but he finds the other seriously misleading

expectancy, such a short quotation lost in the midst of a "theoretical" discussion cuts little ice. Lane can not be accused of not having characterised Stalin's regime properly in the work as a whole. But by placing information thus, and giving different weight to its treatment in different places, he may well give an inexperienced reader a false picture of Stalin's regime.

But then there is no entry in the index of this volume relating to forced labour or labour camps; and only one in *Soviet Economy & Society* under "labour camps", when the following appears: "The Soviet labour system under Stalin was not, however, solely based on financial incentives to stimulate supply. Coercion was also used. Labour camps were organised in the east and the north and approximately five million people laboured on construction projects. This is quite exceptional in a modernising society and is a throw-back to similar though smaller developments which had occurred under the Tsars." From this one may plausibly deduce that labour camps no longer exist today. It is not necessary to comment on the tone of the passage, the effect of which is to suggest that forced labour was a mere transient phenomenon, and that even under Stalin labour had been in the main "free".

How refreshingly different is the view of Hosking. "The labour camps and the terror were an intrinsic part of Stalinist society. They resulted directly from the methods the party resolved to use to transform industry and agriculture, to eliminate 'bourgeois specialists', and to appoint its own promising young men, as well as from the methods Stalin used to defeat his opponents." Hosking goes on: "But no nation can consume its own population in such a reckless manner without suffering incalculable damage. As a system of rule Stalin's terror could not persist indefinitely. Yet trying to end it was to bring his successors some very difficult dilemmas."

Here one is in the real world that saw the publication in 1962 of Solzhenitsyn's epoch making *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, a work that caused a furor by making public what was generally known, though concealed out of fear. Unlike Lane, Hosking makes it clear that, though terror of the Stalinist brand has gone,

terror in milder form remains, together with the labour camps and forced labour. That there have been improvements is undeniable, even (under pressure from the condemned) in many of the camps. Nonetheless, terror, forced labour and structure of Russian society as to be ineradicable. This post-Khrushchev history of alternating "liberalism" and repression makes evident. How could an uninformed person reading only Lane's perfunctory dismissal of labour camps as exceptional become aware of this? Lane does note that since Khrushchev's fall "KGB activity seems to have been on the increase". He goes on: "But there is no evidence of police repression or a return to terror". What, one wonders, are his conceptions of "police repression" and "terror", which seemingly exclude labour camps, exile (such as that of Sakharov), incarceration in lunatic asylums under drugs etc.

Lane uses the method of false comparison once more in his discussion of relative inequality as between Russia and the West.

Whatever inequalities may be in the West, there is nothing in principle that prevents the poorest from going to the same shops and buying the same goods as do the richest. What prevents them is only the want of money. Not so in Russia where, as Hosking points out, a whole range of goods can be obtained only in "limited access" localities and shops. That is, sections of the population are by their standing in the social hierarchy of the country debarred from going to places (Moscow and other big cities, for example) and to shops reserved for the exclusive use of their superiors; so that even if by some curious circumstance, they were to amass enough money to be able to buy certain classes of goods, they none the less could not do so, because the places where these were to be obtained would be closed to them.

Inequality in the West and in Russia is thus not at all the same phenomenon. A mere comparison of differential rates of pay is thus of no value whatsoever, since it assumes just what does not exist, equality of access to all available goods, provided one has the money.

Lane should know this perfectly well. Indeed,

he discusses preferential (or limited) access in a different context. He starts off: "The life styles on the various elite groups (military, political, creative, intelligentsia) have not been studied in the Soviet press", quite as though this were some sort of oversight and not, as it obviously is, a matter of policy, since to make the privileges of the ruling strata common knowledge would be to invite disaffection and unrest. He goes on: "Matthews... points out that they have preferential access to transport, housing and medical facilities and enjoy access to better quality consumer goods. They also have access to information not available to the masses..."

This mode of argumentation without a blush compares unlikes and keeps apart matters which self-evidently belong together and are essential to any proper assessment of what is being discussed. One could go through Lane's volumes to extract other instances of misleading presentation. There is a question of internal passports, considered quite independently of the dwelling permit known as *propiska*. Hosking's discussion of these shows quite clearly that the mere granting of an internal passport (which seems nothing like as common as Lane asserts) in no way abolishes the restriction on movement within Russia reintroduced by Stalin, as Lane allows one to suppose.

There are gems like the following in Lane. "Has the Soviet Union succeeded in eliminating waste? Is it less wasteful than the capitalist economy? The answer is ambiguous. Central planning has ensured a low-wage full-employment economy; the waste of structural unemployment has been eliminated. But labour power and capital are inefficiently used... The USSR has wasteful occupations - police, 'controllers', censors - though less so than the armies of salesmen, insurance officials, tax accountants and stock-brokers endemic to advanced capitalism..."

Clearly, even Lane, for all his relish for things Russian, does not dare to answer his question about eliminating waste affirmatively. His mention of full-employment as a benefit comes oddly at a time when Russian rulers are struggling to get rid of it as a fetter on development. Full employment Russian-style may be politically useful but it is economically unfortunate, ensuring poor quality workmanship, low productivity, technological backwardness, and concomitant waste of resources on a gigantic scale.

It is not conceivable that Lane can be unaware of these aspects of recent Russian economic policies, aimed at reducing over-manning; nor can he be unaware of the fact that the monstrous over-manning that exists there is but "structural unemployment" in different form, and just as wasteful in its own way.

Had Lane known Marx a bit better (his "exposition" of *Capital* is a joke, so crude it is), he would have realised that the circumstances already evident to Marx, the fact that technology developed by commodity production in principle does away with the dependence of production on human labour, is coming about; and that modern "structural unemployment" has little to do with "capitalism", and much with modern technology which no longer requires the quantities of human labour heretofore essential. This being so, what forces Russian rulers here is the problem of how to reintroduce "structural unemployment" without risking a political explosion.

It is to be noted that in works bristling with statistical tables, figures and exact quantities, Lane, when it comes to a comparison of wasteful occupations, contents himself with mere unsupported assertion. Of course, it is easy enough, when one has virtually denied the existence of labour camps and terror in present-day Russia, to make light of police, "controllers", censors and so forth. But in the real world, where labour camps still exist, and a modicum of terror remains to keep the generality in check, one may assume that those needed to do the work connected with these constitute a considerable force, and together with equally wasteful occupations Lane here neglects to mention (those connected with the endemic black market and the "second economy" producing for it illegally) make up an "army" doubtless as considerable as those of the salesmen, etc. in the West, and possibly larger.

Lane's works should not be found in any library likely to be used largely by students whom they will mislead and misinform. Hosking's work, however, is altogether of a different nature, and is to be highly recommended. No-one reading it can fail to be impressed by its sound sense, its mature weighing up of the issues and its considered judgements; and in the end by the humane optimism founded upon a trust in the people. It certainly should be in the hands of everyone wishing to be informed about present-day Russia.

Town and around

Holding Your Ground: An Action Guide to Local Conservation. By Angela King and Sue Clifford. Temple Smith £5.95. 0 85117 250 4. The Conservation Review. Introduced by David Bellamy. Webb and Bower £4.95. £10.95. 0 86350 064 1. Naturewatch. By Adrienne Katz. Piatkus Books. £7.95. £3.95. 0 86188 301 2.

The Owl. 0 241 11468 3. The Duck. 0 241 11466 7. The Hedgehog. 0 241 11467 5. The Starling. 0 241 11469 1. All by Joyce Pope. Illustrated by Elizabeth Goss. Hamish Hamilton Animals in Towns series. £3.95 each.

Successful campaigning of any kind is, I believe, as much a matter of temperament as training. However, for those of us who undertake such action only in the hour of need and with unconfident unease, *Holding Your Ground* provides the support and information. It can't endow us with the courage and integrity of the creative campaigner, but it shows how to act sensibly and effectively when the environment is under threat, instead of, as all too often, bottling up anger until the situation is irreversible. This handbook is essential reading for anyone who actively cares about the environment. It includes both heartening and cautionary tales, and is particularly acute at pointing to the first signs of environmental hazard and demonstrating a range of ways to resist it. Not only are the threats to different kinds of habitat identified, but the local government chain of responsibility clearly set out, and organizations who offer help, financial, moral and physical, are listed.

The *Conservation Review* determinedly looking on the bright side, reports many cheering individual and corporate efforts both in Britain and internationally. Doubtless it is right that someone should stick up for large companies and government bodies when the atmosphere is heavy with gloom, gloom and suspicion. I feel churlish having read the wildlife report written by the Conservation Officer for the MoD, for wondering if tanks on



manoeuvres are ordered to avoid rare species of plant or important wildlife habitat. For them, as for many of the bodies and companies who feature in this book, conservation is a secondary consideration - but undoubtedly in this less than ideal world, we have to be glad that it is a consideration at all, and we should be grateful to the Conservation Foundation who have encouraged an increasing amount of industrial sponsorship of conservation. (The *Conservation Review* itself was sponsored by Gulf Oil.) This book also has an extensive directory of useful names and addresses.

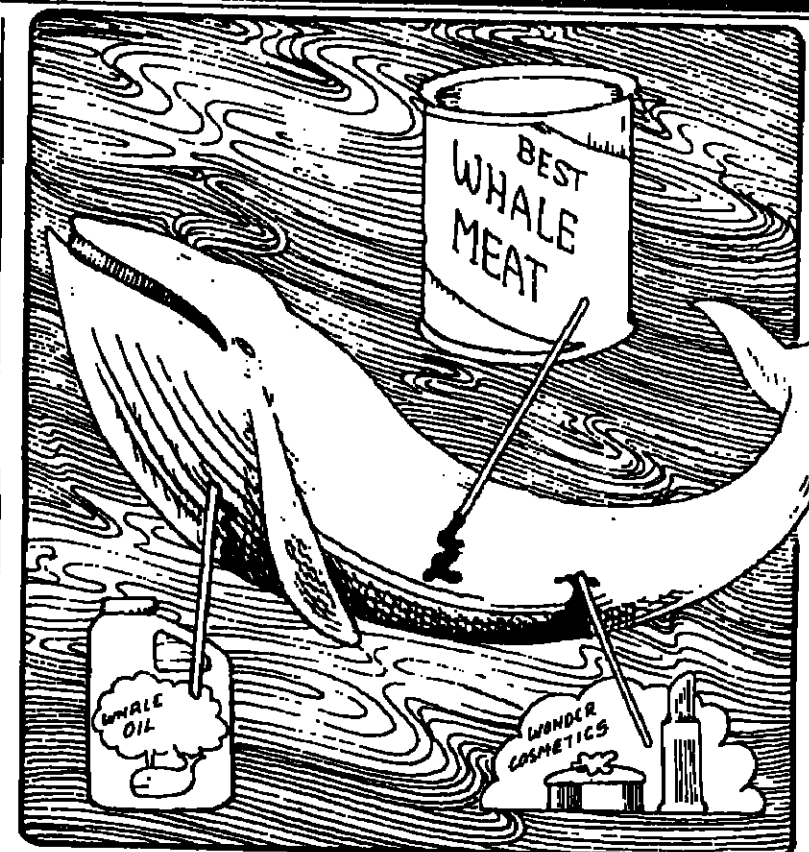
I do not envy any publisher producing a book on nature study for children after J B Cornell's superb *Sharing Nature with Children* (Exley). Adrienne Katz, in *Naturewatch*, gives us a busy compilation of things to do with children, but miss a sense of real understanding. There are some minor inaccuracies - ants are not blind, though they have rather poor sight and what Blochwich meant by *quick snails* in his "Anatomy of the Elder" was living rather than fast-moving, but these are small considerations. Rather more disquieting is the jumble of confusions in the "Pest Control" section with caustic soda and nicotine listed under the headings "natural" and "non-toxic" and the word fertilizer used, as far as I can judge, in error instead of "insecticide". A point that should have been made is that even pest control methods used by organic gardeners have to be used with discretion: gloves should be worn when applying nicotine, even in weak solution and it will kill bees, and derris/pyrethrum mixtures will destroy the eggs and larvae of ladybirds, as well as being dangerous to fish, tortoises and toads.

The four new books in the Animals in Towns series from Hamish Hamilton will stand among the classics of this kind of literature. They are non-fiction books which can be read and enjoyed over and over again. There is a high level of accurate information absorbed into Joyce Pope's most readable style. The illustrator Elizabeth Goss is also to be congratulated for her witty and compelling pictures. Full colour on every page, and beautifully produced, these are fascinating books for town or country children.

How to Make a Wildlife Garden. By Chris Baines. Elm Tree Books £8.95. 0 241 11448 9. The Wild Garden. By Violet Stevenson. Windward £8.95. 07112 0422 5.

Reviewing these books presents one happy problem: the manner of the accolade. Both authors are brimful with intelligent and inspirational ideas and practice, and while they address the same subject, they do so in individually distinctive ways. Ideally one would have recourse to both books, but for direct use with a school group, Chris Baines is the more accessible. He makes his argument with great clarity, and though it was not principally intended as such, his book is a good introduction to the fundamentals of ecology. The style of *How to Make a Wildlife Garden* is breezy, colloquial: adaptable to practical instructions, or to a visionary account of the ways in which plants and animals respond to an inviting well-planned, wildlife garden. I expect to see wildlife patches springing up all over the country in the wake of this book, which is precisely what is needed while the countryside itself recovers from the agro-chemical onslaught.

Violet Stevenson, whose book on herbs is outstanding in a field notable for excellence, takes a subtler, more literary approach to the wild garden. Her strength is in creative juxtaposition of plants and imaginative aesthetic effect. Concentrating more on planting detail, she nevertheless creates an environment in which newts, frogs, butterflies and other creatures



Natural Links, by Anne Clarke, Stephen Pollock and Philip Wells of the Natural History Museum (Cambridge Educational £2.50) introduces basic ecological concepts, including food webs, using clear diagrams, graphics and a straightforward text.

find refuge. Her description of the wild creatures she and husband observed around their quite small garden pond would make anyone yearn to have one too.

What both writers stress is that a wildlife garden is not a wilderness, indeed, a wildly overgrown habitat is attractive only to a limited range of plant and animal species. They also make the point that wildlife gardening requires management. Not all wild flowers have invasive habits and it is simply not enough to scatter a few seeds over a shabby overgrown piece of waste land and await a wild paradise. Chris Baines is a landscape architect and he brings his experience to the service of wildlife, showing how in even a small space several habitats can be laid out to interact with each other: meadow lawn, best-loved and threatened grassland species can thrive and provide food and shelter for small

mammals and insects; woodland edge, attractive to bird life planted with primrose, red campion, wood anemone and ramsons; a pond where endangered newts and frogs can breed, and a marshy patch and damp places where they can live for the rest of the year; a space enriched with nectar-rich cottage garden plants (food for butterflies) and where the rest of the wild garden; finally, even a vegetable patch possibly a better bet in an ecologically balanced wild garden than many a simply not enough to scatter a few seeds over a shabby overgrown piece of waste land and await a wild paradise. Violet Stevenson has in addition instructions of the composition of a fern area, a heather garden and a wild herb garden. Useful notes on raising wild plants, the provenance of seed, and a list of nurseries which provide seed are provided in both books.

Francesca Greenoak

... Calling all publishers ...

You are now invited to send entries for this year's TES Information Book Awards. One award will be for a book for children up to the age of nine, the other for a book for those aged between 10 and 16. To be eligible, books must have originated either in Great Britain or in the Commonwealth between September 1, 1984 and August 31, 1985. The closing date for entries is August 31, 1985.

The judges for the Junior Award will be Mary Jane Drummond, tutor in education at the Cambridge Institute of Education and a language development specialist; Marion Glastonbury, who is a regular contributor to education journals; Beverly Anderson, senior lecturer in the department of education at Oxford Polytechnic, and a writer and broadcaster; together with the editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*.

The judges for the senior award will be Patrick Eavis, headmaster of Queen

The TES Information Book Awards 1985

Elizabeth High School, Hexham, Northumberland; Geoff Fox, who lectures in education at Exeter University and is a founding editor of *Children's Literature in Education*; David Self, writer and broadcaster, and the author of many educational books; together with the editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*. Prizes will be awarded to the authors

of the two selected books, and the judges reserve the right to make a further award to the illustrator in each case.

It is important that publishers should specify whether their books are submitted for the junior or senior category. There is no limit on the number of entries which publishers may submit. No proof copies can be considered.

Four copies of all entries together with a list of titles and details should be sent, marked "Awards Senior/Junior" (delete where appropriate) to:

Vanessa Young
The Times Educational Supplement
Priory House
St John's Lane
London EC1M 4BX

Review copies of titles entered for the awards should be sent in the usual way to The TES office. Further information from Michael Church, Literary Editor.

Here's health

Health Education and Youth: A Review of Research and Developments. Edited by George Campbell. Falmer Press £12.95. 0 905273 54 0.

The main part of this book consists of papers presented to a conference on health education and youth at the University of Southampton in September 1982. Recognizing the interdisciplinary nature of the subject, which embraces social and medical sciences, humanities and education, the conference sought to bring together repre-

sentatives of a wide range of research activities associated with health education which have developed in recent years. As these are often small-scale and not always easy to identify or locate, this volume is especially welcome.

Over 30 papers are published, illustrating the wide range of issues and disciplinary approaches. One group of papers concerns research into health and the prevention of smoking; another looks at health education for children with special needs. A general practitioner describes his involvement

in a district health education service and a lecturer in physical education looks at the changing relationships between physical education and health education. The place of health education in teacher education is also considered.

In spite of the unfortunate delay in its publication, the book is a valuable record of a conference that involved "developers", researchers and policy-makers in a rapidly expanding field.

Mary Cruickshank

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

The Books for Keeps Guide to Children's Books for a Multicultural Society 8-12. Compiled by Judith Elkin. Books for Keeps, Effingham Road, Lee, London SE12 8NZ. £1.75. Exploring cultural diversity: an annotated fiction list. By Anthea Raddon. School Library Association. £2.00 or £1.50 to SLA members.

Judith Elkin produced her first list of *Books for the multi-racial classroom* in 1971; since then she has developed still further her discernment and her considerable skills in dispensing dense information in a readable way. And in the 14 years, the literature on which she chooses to focus has itself developed in both quantity and quality.

She divides her list into eight categories: myths, legends and folktales; picture books; stories for 8-10; stories for 10-12; poetry and song; information books on the world around us; the wider world; and books for assemblies. For each she gives us all the bibliographic details needed for ordering, though the original publication date would have been useful. There are lists of relevant organizations and journals, and the layout and production by Pat Triggs has done much to make the information attractive and accessible.

In her introduction on "Where we stand", Ms Elkin identifies the kind of books we should be looking for, giving due weight to empathy and understanding as well as accurate and balanced information. She also deals with the likelihood that not everyone will agree over every book, but she doesn't necessarily identify the controversial titles in the listings. It is in the information books section, particularly the "Wider World", where I find myself occasionally questioning

her judgement. Though she acknowledges that, for instance, some of the *Beans series* (A & C Black) are better than others, she is uncritical of *Boy in Bangladesh* and other titles which portray societies as "primitive" to British children with whatever their background, are not value-free. She also unreservedly recommends *Living in Calcutta* and *Living in Johannesburg*, both of which duck crucial issues.

However, I have never been able to put into the hands of a teacher or a librarian a list of books for children and say: "You can order from this". Here, at least, is a starting point - and I'm delighted that there are plans to keep it up to date.

The life of the busy librarian or teacher making an initial response to Swann will be considerably assisted by this guide. It is best used alongside, not instead of, the rather less attractively produced SLA list. Anthea Raddon is by no means new to the field of children's fiction in relation to our multicultural society, but this is the first time that she has gone into print. She has compiled a booklet which combines excellent judgement with practical helpfulness, in tackling issues on selection and the pitfalls of multicultural literature. She is never glib. She goes on to discuss a selection of titles under the headings: Everyday situations, Multicultural themes, Countries of the world, Catering for special needs, Examples of excellence (rather than, this) and gives age suitability and full bibliographic details - except price at the end of each category. That way, she works within a form which allows for exploration of the issues, including the negative. Three pounds will provide two bibliographies which will save staff endless time and provide a checklist for schools already tailoring their resources to provide "Education for all" and part of the answer to those who are asking "Where shall I start?"

Gillian Klein

BOOKS

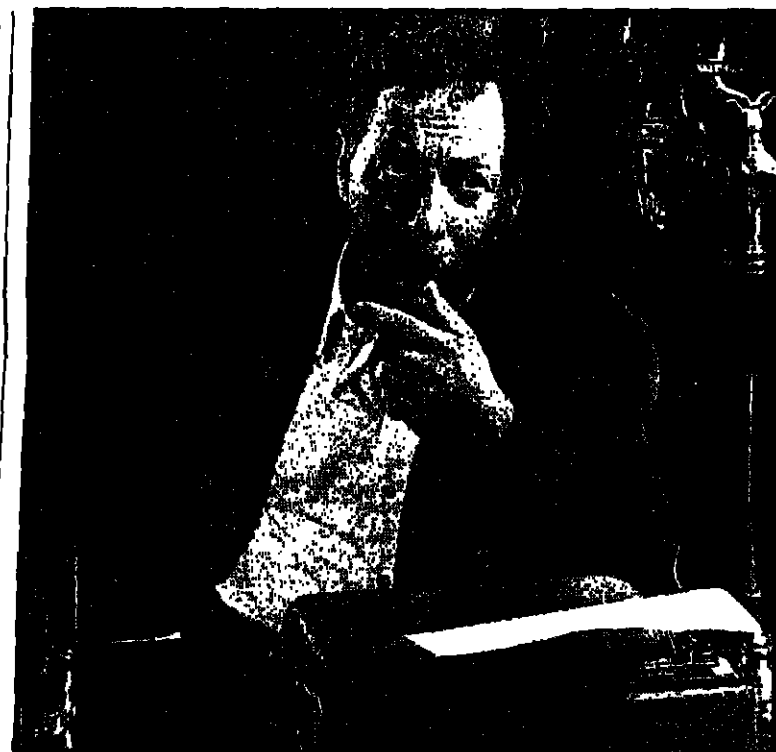
Theatrical pyrotechnics

Shena Mackay on the life of Tennessee Williams

The Kindness of Strangers: The Life of Tennessee Williams. By Donald Spoto. The Bodley Head £12.95. 0 370 30847 6.

The pyrotechnical display, one of his own recurring images, might stand as a metaphor for Tennessee Williams' life: the slow-burning touchpaper, the enigmatic cries of the spectators at the profusion of coloured stars, the fizzing and spluttering out into a blackness made more intense by the radiance that has gone. Donald Spoto's rich and compassionate *Life*, *The Kindness of Strangers*, will, to paraphrase Auden, give you all the facts – how Thomas Lanier Williams (the assumed Tennessee later) was born in Mississippi in 1911, the second child of a misalliance between a travelling salesman and an aspiring Southern Belle; the struggles of his youth, and the acts which made him the greatest playwright of his day – and illuminate how he was to transmute a life as bizarre as that of any of his characters into the art that gave such eloquence to the fugitive, misfit and disappointed.

When the little unicorn, *place de résistance* of her glass menagerie, is broken, the crippled heroine consoles her clumsy gentleman caller thus: "I'll just imagine he had an operation. He had his horn removed to make him feel less – freakish! Now he will feel more at home with the other horses, the ones who don't have horns..." Tennessee Williams's sister was both the girl and the glass unicorn; the Rose that was sick; the invisible woman that destroyed her in withdrawal and hysteria and sexual fantasies, and the operation designed to make her less freakish was a lobotomy which left her suspended in time, for over a girl and a virgin. Tennessee Williams never forgave his mother for consenting to the operation, or himself for not being there to prevent it and thereafter his life, and



his work, was haunted by the spectre of Rose.

As children they enjoyed a relationship so intense as to obviate other companions, and Tom was to maintain his devotion to his sister, who outlived him, and was endlessly tolerant of her whims and eccentricities. For Rose, Tom remained the struggling young writer that he had been when Tom ceased for her; years later, he was to weep when, at the end of one of his visits to the sanatorium where she stayed, she pressed a 10 dollar bill into the hand of the richest and most famous playwright in the world.

Throughout their troubled childhood Tom and Rose, and later their

younger brother Dakin (who somehow escaped the particular permutations of inherited genes that blighted Rose and made a genius of Tom) found a refuge, and the unquestioning love, which could not or did not provide, with their maternal grandparents, the Reverend Walter Dakin and his wife, the original Rose. In years to come, this frail old Episcopal clergyman would often stay with Tom and his long-time companion, Frank Merlo, having no difficulty in accepting their relationship, and is said to have revelled in the gay Bohemianism of Lee West and New Orleans.

The last years of Tennessee Wil-

liams's life make for melancholy reading. As a lifelong sufferer from acute anxiety, with an established hypochondriacal personality, he fell an easy prey to the seduction of pills and alcohol. But they proved false friends, who led him, the more he depended on them, to professional disasters and public debacles, and estranged him from his true friends, most sadly from his brother Dakin, from the wise and kind Frank Merlo, and from Audrey Wood, who over the years had gone way beyond the call of duty as an agent. Wounds are no less sharp for being self-inflicted, and whatever epithets attach to Tennessee Williams – Dionysian, degenerate, dissolute – nobody could fail to be impressed by his professionalism in the theatre, however hungover, through whatever miasma of guilt and shame, or by his enormous capacity for, and application to, work. Gallant was the word Ella Kazan used to describe him.

After Frank Merlo's death, Williams, always restless, became more and more the fugitive kind. As with Tom in *The Glass Menagerie*, the cities swept about him like dead leaves. During his last five years he always included in his public readings his poem "Old Men Go Mad At Night", about the fear of dying alone. Tennessee Williams did die alone, in a hotel room; the victim of a macabre accident from which perhaps he did not want to be saved.

If this book's chronological structure makes it inevitable that it should end on a dying fall, we can still be grateful to Donald Spoto for reminding us of the other Tennessee Williams: the champion of the beautiful and fragile and broken against the brutish and smug and cruel, the poet of irony and grace whose pyrotechnics still light the theatrical sky; not a burned out White Dwarf, as one savage and malicious critic put it, but among stars, laughing in a white suit.

PAPER BACKS

The private pain of a woman's infatuation for her stepson is the theme of Alice Thomas Ellis's sensitive novel, *The Other Side of the Fire* (Penguin £2.50). Running parallel to a fictional melodrama, however, reality takes on a new, often comic perspective.

The first signs of industrial India are splendidly evoked and painfully realized in Anita Desai's *The Village by the Sea* (Penguin £2.50), as the small fishing village of Thul adapts to change. For Hari, entering adulthood, it means employment and, for the first time, hope, in the possibility of a future.

Paul Theroux journeyed clockwise around the coastline of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to write *The Kingdom by the Sea* (Penguin £2.50). A candid and highly amusing travelogue, all the sights, sounds and smells of Britishness are here recorded by the satirical hand of the detached foreigner.

Closer to home, David Thomson's *In Camden Town* (Penguin £2.95) is more sympathetic to the natives. Written in diary form, Thomson's vivid style portrays the lives of both rich and poor alike, capturing the ironic contrast between squalor and wealth in this now trendy area of North London.

Ireland is the setting for Desmond Hogan's *A Curious Street* (Picador £2.50). Possessing the quality of an almost visionary lyricism, Hogan's extraordinary imagistic powers are here at their greatest. Interweaving past and present, tragedy and glory, the stories of individuals are bound together in the inevitability of history.

Jacqui Stephen

The Roman Cookery of Apicius, translated and adapted for the modern kitchen by John Edwards (Hutchinson £6.95) is a brilliant idea carried out with style: first century recipes for meat, fish, vegetables and fruit dishes, with detailed cooking instructions and suggestions about herbs and spices.

Television

Pet hates

The Mad Death (BBC1, June 28) ended with an animal-lover (Brenda Bruce) defending her menagerie of cats and dogs from the doctors who were trying to inoculate her against rabies. When this visibly crazed woman locked up attractive, intelligent young Dr Anne Maitland (Barbara Kellerman) and told her she was a naughty pussy because she wouldn't eat her Kitekat, most viewers had probably guessed that old Miss Stoneroff was due to be put to sleep before the serial ended. And so it was. The picture of a country over-run by rabid pets and doty animal-lovers made me so nervous that for two or three days I shuddered every time I heard a dog bark. The alternative vision of rural England on BBC2 (One Man and his Dog, June 28) did little to redress the balance in favour of the Miss Stoneroffs: after all, sheepdogs are not pets and their handlers on that evening were all young men and obviously of sound mind.

Two days earlier both second channels had made their contribution to what was starting to look like a concerted campaign against the animal rights lobby. On June 26, Open Space (BBC2) and Diverse Reports (C4) carried a similar message, though with different estimates of the daily tonnage of dog mess, dogshit, doggie-doo or whatever you like to call it that contaminates our parks and pavements (our reputation as a nation of pet-fanatics may be under review, but we still have a talent for coining euphemisms). On *Diverse Reports* a doctor held up two chopsticks full of soft noodles and announced that these were dog worms, incubated in the human gut and capable of burrowing their way to any part of the body, including the eyes where they cause blindness, and the brain where, presumably, they get you thinking that Barbara Kellerman is a pussy cat. Dogs foul footpaths, maul children, cost taxpayers' money and, unless properly trained, kill sheep. Again, in *Diverse Reports*, pet-lovers were represented by a woman of a certain age and dubious reasoning power who seemed liable to assault the cameramen because her dog was not allowed into the park.

"You see them everywhere: dear, sweet old ladies; harmless, eccentric – but not always quite what they seem," the *Radio Times* warned viewers of Ronald Frame's *Park* (BBC2, June 25). I was beginning to believe it. Miss McLeod (Jean Anderson) and Miss Nesbitt (Noel Dyson) were petless, however, and their fantasies relatively innocuous: two women from contrasting backgrounds drawn together by the accident of age. The play, as well as giving a tourist guide to the cultural landmarks of Glasgow, gently questioned a case of social stereotyping in a week when women over 45 seemed otherwise fit only for the isolation ward or a padded cell.

Series come and series go, at this watershed between spring and summer seasons (the latter dated against the first wave of package tours, not the calendar). The last Max Headroom Show (June 22) paid its weekly tribute to "that little box, pumping it out at you like a severed artery" and announced a brand new game-show, "Get Excited". The first round of Ultra Quiz '85 (June 29) looked like a parody of the suggestion, subjecting its viewers to some appalling one-liners ("the trouble with having a grandchild is you have to sleep with the grand-mother" – it really was a bad week for older women) and humiliating the competitors with a pantomime adapted from the children's quiz *Runaround*. When this insulting nonsense is what passes for entertainment, it makes you doubly grateful for the sanity of *Voces* (Channel 4). On June 26, Salman Rushdie met Günter Grass and on July 3 the series is to end with Kurt Vonnegut and Heinrich Böll. The form of these dialogues has been exemplary, the participants tending to develop their own themes in parallel, in contrast to an assumption of most discussion programmes that "truth" emerges from argument and confrontation.

Hugh David

Richard III with Antony Sher in the title role is currently in repertoire at the Barbican Theatre, London. Antony Sher's drawings for *Year of the King* are currently on exhibition in the Barbican Art Gallery.

Radio

Big-wig

What happens to old HMIs? Take, for example, Bert Parnaby (until retirement HMI with national responsibility for drama). He is busy carving out another career for himself as a multimedia professional actor. Having carried a spear for the RSC and hammed it up as required in television's *By the Sword Divided*, he started last week in Radio 4's "Monday Play".

Welcome to the Times was written by Dave Sheasby (BBC Radio Sheffield's education producer and a playwright with a marvelous ear for detail) and set in a northern steel town. Besides being both very funny and a political thriller, it chronicled "the slow death of the old North" and the rise of a new city scene with wine bars full of "solicitors' clerks ordering their quiches". With a voice full of millstone grit, Parnaby played Statterthwaite, a local left-wing bigwig; and Malcolm Hebden was quietly right as a redundant steelworker tempted into the shady business world of a gecko-like wheeler-dealer (Nick Stringer). Producer Robert Cooper's creative use of BBC Manchester's new 24-track dra-



"The Political Locust": Isaac Cruikshank (1762-1811)

Well-mannered

English Caricature; 1620 to the present. Victoria & Albert Museum till September 1

The art of caricature embodies a curious contradiction: so much brilliant draughtsmanship wedded to such ephemeral subjects. Who now, under the age of 80, can appreciate the complex resonance of Tenniel's famous "Dropping the Pilot"? Who, of any age, can recognize the hero of John Galsworthy's "An Ever-Green"? Perhaps because of its interesting, elongated shape, or its witty clarity, this last print is being used to advertise the exhibition that has just opened in the Henry Cole Wing of the V&A. The contents range, in elongated fashion, (which are more emblematic than caricatures) to various well-known moderns: Scarfe quivering with rage, Marc classically sparse. As is only just, though, most of the space is given over to the great period – the hundred years after 1740 – when masters like Gillray and Rowlandson and the Cruikshanks poured out such a profusion of acerbic and comic commentaries on the manners of the age.

English prize

A competition, open to every teacher in the country, and designed to stimulate new ideas as to how English might better be taught in secondary schools, is now being organized by the Centre for Policy Studies.

Competitors are invited to write an essay of not more than 1,400 words on the teaching of English – with special reference to the kindling of pupils' delight in, and understanding of, the words – and to send this to the Competition Manager, Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred Street, London SW1E 6PL. The first prize will be £200 to the winner plus publication of the essay in the *Spectator* plus £100 to the school in which the competitor teaches, and there will be runner-up

ARTS

Where the world sings

Iola Smith previews the International Eisteddfod

From July 9-14 the 39th International Eisteddfod will take place at Llangollen, a small town in North Wales. The local population will swell tenfold when up to 15,000 overseas musicians and dancers from 34 countries as diverse as America, Czechoslovakia, Japan and Bangladesh attend the festival. Many of the participants will be children and young people, scheduled to compete in the youth choirs and dance competitions.

All the overseas visitors will be accommodated free of charge by local people, with 350 youngsters taking up residence in the local secondary school, Ysgol Dinas Bran. This school is active in maintaining the cultural links which have developed as a result of the annual festival and has close links with the German school Bergsdorf Gymnasium. German pupils regularly attend the festival, and the winning scheme continues on their return as Dinas Bran pupils visit Germany.

The Llangollen school also helps organize the festival, as headteacher John Wile explains. "As part of the work experience required by TVEI, a group of fourth formers will fit out the marquee and arrange the seating. The Eisteddfod magazine is written by pupils in the English and Business Studies departments, and staff prepare information sheets for overseas children about the history of the festival and the locality. And, as this is International Youth Year, one of our pupils will read a peace message from Wales to the youth of the world." Pupils also assume behind-the-scenes roles such as car park attendants and stewarding during the festival, as lessons are waived for the week.

The school has an enthusiastic music department, with the choir active in competitions and concerts. After opening the festival, for example, the choir will subsequently participate in an open air international religious service, to be held among the ruins of the medieval Valle Crucis Abbey.

Music isn't contained within the marquee. Folk dance groups and singers perform on the streets, with the

Dinas Bran school band having pride of place on the high street.

Many competitions are devised specifically for young people aged 16 to 25. Perhaps the most prestigious of these is the International Young Singer of the Year event. In addition to a cash prize, the winner is considered by the Welsh Arts Council for future concert engagements. A similar competition has recently been inaugurated for young instrumentalists and composers. Providing a showcase for such talented individuals isn't the objective, however. The Eisteddfod is anxious to welcome all young people interested in music and dance, so competitions are run for lower secondary school pupils up to age 15, together with youth events for those aged 15 plus. This year, 34 groups from 11 countries will participate, including Norway, Denmark, Finland, Canada, Yugoslavia and Rumania.

Fostering folk music world wide was the festival's original intention and, as a result, competitors perform in their native language. Over 30 languages will be heard this year. The folk-singing tradition is strong in Eastern Europe, a feature reflected at Llangollen which has developed a fruitful relationship with folk groups from Hungary and Rumania.

Children's folk choirs will take the stage on the Thursday evening during the youth concert. Participants are expected from Japan, America, Ghana, Ukraine, Switzerland and Turkey. All this culture, however, doesn't come cheaply. It will cost £150,000 to hold this year's festival, missed mainly by local authority and Welsh Arts Council grants. Revenue will also be obtained via ticket sales and broadcast rights. A far cry from the first small £4,000 festival held immediately after the Second World War as an attempt to promote peace in Europe. Almost 40 years on it has succeeded, showing how political barriers can be surmounted through music. At Llangollen, Soviets, Americans and Chinese participate in harmony. As the Eisteddfod's motto puts it, "Blessed is a world that sings".

Support the cause

Which side are you on? An investigation into cinema and socialism. National Film Theatre, July 2-31.

Don't be put off by the challenging title of this NFT season or your inability to decide whether you are on Warren Beatty's side (*Reds*, July 4 and 9) or Eisenstein's (*October*, July 30). A glance at the small print in the programme booklet shows that the season is more eclectic than its title might suggest and that its compiler, Martin Hunt, has something rather broader in mind than just a series of Socialist films. "Politics and art, politics and pleasure... Is it possible to read these films against the grain?" And if these questions leave you confused, you can book up for Raymond Williams' Guardian Lecture on July 21.

Most NFT visitors will probably adopt what I suspect is their usual strategy, forgetting the pretext and picking and choosing between cinema classics (Dziga Vertov's extraordinary *Man with a Movie Camera*, on July 16, for example) and the Chinese *Two Stage Sisters*, on July 23, if they missed it when it was shown on Channel 4 last year), or the films they were unable to see on first release (possibly *Silkwood* – July 11 – or *The King of Comedy* – July 12 and 15).

Still, the theme is there, and it does invite some questions and comparisons. It has been suggested that recent political documentary has tended to address itself to supporters, with the aim of sustaining the belief in the cause rather than attempting to win over the unconvinced; so it may be instructive to compare the *South Bank*

Show documentary from which the season takes its title (July 5) with Ivor Montagu's *Peace and Plenty* (July 21), made in 1939 at a particularly important moment for documentary film in this country.

The inclusion in the season of Maria Luisa Bernberg's *Nobody's Wife* (*La Señora de Nadie*, July 23) is also illuminating because it indicates a change in our idea of the political. This Argentinian film, made in 1982 after a four-year battle with the censor, is the story of a woman who leaves her husband because of his infidelity and eventually chooses to live in friendship with a young homosexual who offers her unselfish affection and companionship rather than sex. Censors have usually been able to detect a political message beneath the froth of the least substantial soap-opera, but it is only quite recently that this film would have been perceived as overtly political by a British audience. While implying that in a society where relations between men and women are distorted by machismo there can be no equality in a sexual relationship, it is a surprisingly optimistic film, mainly because of the sensitive performances of Luísa Bernberg as the wife and Julio Chavez as the young man.

The NFT is also continuing its survey of German cinema with a season of films made by German directors abroad; they include Lubitsch, Murnau, Lang, Wilder and Zinnemann, and the theme is further explored with more émigrés next month.

Robyn Russ

Private sacrifice

Trollius and Cressida
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

A feminist *Trollius and Cressida*? It's an odd but, I suppose, inevitable conception at the present moment. Shakespeare's play is about warfare and the relationship between the sexes ("war and lechery" in Thersites' more pungent phrase). The most prominent branch of contemporary feminism directly associates these two topics. The demonstrators who chant "Take the toys from the boys" at Greenham Common see militarism and sexual oppression as the twin roots of patriarchy.

The oddity, of course, arises from the fact that Shakespeare's play has traditionally been assumed to give a singularly unflattering picture of women. The flighty Helen is the cause of the war. Cressida is the most notorious case of fickleness in the whole of English literature.

Howard Davies's production gets round these little difficulties in the only way possible - that is by sustained playing against the text. Juliet Stevenson's stern and strident Cressida almost manages to make the process convincing. Her reception in the

Greek camp is turned from the (conventional) piece of coy flirtation into a sinister exercise of male sexual brutality - a terrified girl is thrown from one general to another and Ulysses's "Her wanton spirits look out / At every joint and motive of her body" becomes the slanderous misrepresentation of a frustrated man. But even she cannot thus transform her final scene with Diomedes, except by stooping to the desperate expedient of suggesting that terror has somehow driven Cressida mad.

Clive Morrison, as Pandarus, is put under equal strain. This is no salacious procurer but a sympathetic relative, more cousin than uncle, more sexual therapist than pimp. A slim, elegant and endearingly disillusioned figure, he is subjected to brutal bullying in his scene with Paris and Helen and dissociates himself from the fighting of the final act by playing a piano in a corner of the battlefield. When, in the final line of the epilogue, he bequeaths us his diseases it is, for once, hard to imagine what they might be.

Certain crucial joints of the play, in other words, crack a good deal under the strain of this high-minded reinterpretation. Worse than that, one whole area of its life is suppressed. In this production *Trollius and Cressida* is no

longer a play about love, and its weakest moment is the normally intensely touching scene of the morning after the lovers' first night together. Anton Lesser's energetic and intelligent Trollius is, as a consequence, played in a void and lacks a real sense of purpose.

If Howard Davies's reading of the play has its disadvantages, however, it also has some very considerable virtues. The traditional uncertainty about the genre of this text - is it comedy, satire, burlesque, tragedy or history? - is here decisively resolved. Set in the Crimean War, with generals holding their debates around board-room tables, it becomes an energetic history play with strong political implications. The private life of the play is sacrificed to achieve this public effect and the scenic and atmospheric apparatus make it a very long evening (3½ hours without the interval). But, with distinguished help from Alun Armstrong's gloomy batman of a Thersites and Peter Jeffrey's Mr Gladstone-like Ulysses, the familiar story of the Trojan War is given an unfamiliar degree of narrative impetus and conviction.

Nicholas Shrimpton

Cygnets Training Theatre

The Exeter-based Cygnets Training Theatre, which enjoys a close relationship to the Northcott, is just coming to the end of its second year. Already it is well established in its combination of drama school and touring company; the training takes place during the eight to ten week rehearsal schedule before each production goes out on tour. There are never more than 16 student-performers so that all Cygnets actors have the experience of a good range of parts, and their training is flexible, both in length and content. Some members of the company already hold Equity cards when they join Cygnets, but the majority have had no previous stage training and may even join straight from school.

George Farquhar's *The Beaux' Stratagem*, with a cast of 10 (allowing for some doubling), is the current production. It has already enjoyed a successful West Country tour, and should attract a large audience when it plays at the Northcott Arts Centre during the Edinburgh Fringe from August 19 to 31.

Last year, when Cygnets took *As You Like It* to Edinburgh, Rosalind was played by Penelope McDiarmid, who now takes the part of Mrs Sullen, suitably fatigued by "country pleasures" and eager for more lively adventures. This 24-year-old actress, who has been



Alimwell (Anthony Austin) and Archer

training with Cygnets for the last two years, brings an elegant vivacity and wit to a most demanding role. Other performers to look out for are Anita Tarrant as Mrs Sullen's friend, Dorinda, and Anthony Austin as Thomas Alimwell. His confederate is played by John Baker, who has the advantage of a pleasing singing voice that fits in well with the taped harpsichord music that adorns this entertainment. This music has been devised and arranged by Monica Shallis, the company's artistic director, who also organizes individual and group tuition in musicianship for Cygnets's students.

Her fellow-director is Mary G Evans, whose professional theatrical career has been in stage management and administration. She worked as company manager in Paris for Peter Brook (now Cygnets's patron) for many years and believes that experience of group work is one of the greatest

benefits that she and Monica Shallis can offer their students. For this reason a large part of the July auditions are based on workshop sessions, and their flexibility and responsiveness to other actors as for their competence with their chosen set passages.

Enquiries about this year's auditions should be addressed to the Director, Cygnets, 23 New North Road, Exeter, EX4 4HF. Applications for Cygnets summer course, running from July 22 to August 3, for which anybody over the age of 16 is eligible, should be sent to the same address. During those two weeks, students are given the opportunity to explore various theatrical skills including movement, mime, improvisation and rehearsal techniques in order to enable them to assess their potential for further training.

Shirley Toulson

Literary competition

Competition No 64. Report by Charybdis

Asked to alter classic endings, competitors devised some sparkling variants, the most popular by far the appearance of Godot to the waiting Vladimir and Estragon: Gerard Benson, D A Prince and V Ernest Cox were among the great minds who thought alike on this. Another strong runner was *Great Expectations*, where Dickens himself had second thoughts.

£4 to Jacy for sending Paul Penzance down yet again from Sceno, to be interviewed at a seedy Prep by "Dr Bee" (Captain Grimes - who else?); £4 to Christopher Halsall for bringing K at last to the Castle, where, like every other visitor, he pays his 50p for admission "and 25p for the guidebook"; £4 to Pauline Moore (please send your address) for ensuring that *All's Well That Ends Well* by snatching Helena away from that wimp Bertram and awarding her to the far more eligible King of France; and £4 to Joyce Sugg for this snatch from her re-jigged *Tempest*.

Alonso: Didst not abjure thy magic, good my lord?

Prospero: I did dissemble. By enchantment's art / Eight chosen aires and ditties we may hear. / Three volumes read, have luxuries enow / In this fair spot now known as Plomley's Isle.

Many others did well, especially E J Elwin, Jock Whiteside, Paul Griffin, Bill Greenwell.

£10 to Neville Mellon for audacious grafting *Maurice* on to *A Passage*; £10 to Peter Norman for his euphoric *Hamlet*, infinitely more uplifting than the besotted original; £10 (*in toto*) to the prolific George Moor for his *Sorrows of Youth* and *Villette*; £7 to Jeremy Neville for his *Great Expectations*; and a final £7 to Leigh Hughes for a deliciously sardonic ending to *A Farewell to Arms* that there is, alas, no space to print.

But Eros, who was reared in the Cradle of Western Civilization, dwells also in the jungles of mau and will reveal himself unsummoned.

"Why can't we be friends now?" said Fielding, holding him affectionately. "It's what I want. It's what you want. I knew that what they said - Miss Quested - could not be true."

Aziz giggled suddenly. "And yet, you know, Fielding, in some ways she had the grace of a youth."

Fielding was instantly vexed. Thus does the Oriental mind yield to the superficial at moments of high seriousness. But he would not be denied. "We know about that side of your life, as Mrs Moore knew, and McBryde never did. She even knew about Ronnie. That's why she was so impatient. He wouldn't see for himself; but you understood."

His hold tightened, for Eros was not to be deflected by the chatter of mere mortals, and Aziz was still.

"My dear fellow."

And the temples, the jail, the palace and the sky, all said, "Yes, yes, yes."

Neville Mellon

Fortinbras: Prince Hamlet - though 'twere meet to call you king - / 'Twould seem the rumours of your death were much exaggerated.

Hamlet: Marry, Norway, chance / Dictated that, to spite my uncle's will, / Laertes did but feign to tip his sword / With venom. But the poison'd cup was real. / My mother's dead.

Gertrude: (rising) Not so, my noble son! / I thank my stars I did but feign to drink / And thus shall live to see my Hamlet crowned!

(Enter Polonius)

Hamlet: Polonius! I left thee stone cold dead / As my farmyard rat that hath been shook / And worried by some sleek and sharp-clawed cat / How comes it that thou walk'st / Polonius: My lord, forgive me / A man's feeble joke - I did but sham / Your mirth rous'd thrust did miss me by a mile. / Yet these old bones' survival is as naught / Beside the ridings that I bring, My lord, / Your future queen doth live! Aye, sweet Laertes, / Thy sister is restor'd! Some wond'rous leech / Bestow'd on her the kiss of life.

(Enter Ophelia)

Hamlet: Thank Jove! / Now is my cup of satisfaction brim'd / Ophelia, stanch those injur'd eyes, all rimm'd / With red. Away! Prepare the bridal carriage, / And let procession end in marriage!

Peter Norman

I have trod the stern glens where Fingal languished but it is not the pages of Ossian that have delighted me so much as the life-enhancing porridge, whisky and golf. The last takes all my energy and interest. I cannot wait to bring it back to you all in Germany. Had I only known of it I would never have wasted my time and heart on that ridiculous Charlotte. O the ineffable joy of a perfect shot! What divine transports are suggested by the very word 'golf'!

George Moor

But not it is no ghost. "Tu trembles; tu es pale, chere, ma colombe". It is the loved voice. "But you drowned!"

"I came by another boat. And I teach you now 'aimer' - present indicative."

Here pause. Withdraw, reader. Lucy Snowe has opened the book of life.

George Moor

"Will you not journey back to town with me, Pip?" asked Estella. Outside the wall of the old garden of the rectory house we had both known for so long I was waiting for her. I recognized the driver - it was Trabb's boy, who greeted me with a knowing wink.

"I am glad to see that you have risen in the world", I said earnestly. Climbing down from his seat he opened the door to the cab. I noticed for the first time that it was already occupied, by a man who sat slouched in the dark of the far corner. He slowly turned his head towards us.

"Orlick!" I exclaimed in amazement.

"My second husband," said Estella. Jeremy Neville

Competition No 65. Set by Scylla

It seems to us surprising that the late 20th century has given rise to so few superstitious. We ask you therefore to invent some plausible ones, with brief reasons for their existence. Closing date July 17 (please note this means you have less time than usual!)

Ibsen: The Open Vision by John S Chamberlain (Athlone £6.95, 0 485 12044 5). The dominant theme of this highly-concentrated monograph is, as it might be said, its own-mindedness, his resolute unworldliness of any particular one of the ideologies whose rub and jostle give his plays their unrelenting tension. All Ibsenites will benefit from gazing through the powerful microscope Professor Chamberlain brings to bear on this inexhaustibly arousing dramatist.

Next week

Jessica Saraga profiles Marjorie Reeves; Sarah Ray on the Cambridge Ballet Workshop; Hugh Stephenson on the Tory Party before and after Thatcher

Nick Baker

For details of all Royal Court Young Writers' events, telephone 01-730 5174

RESOURCES

MICRO MATHS

Mathematical activities for infant classes... but where does the micro fit in? Anita Straker reports



In a good infants' school a variety of mathematical activities will be going on at almost any moment of the day. Some children will be measuring each other, and making graphs to illustrate the outcomes of their measurements. Some will be weighing out flour and pouring out milk in order to bake some scones. Others will be counting and classifying the birds which are visiting a bird table laden with tit-bits.

Underlying all this apparently haphazard activity will be a well-structured mathematics scheme. The concepts and skills which the children need to develop as they move through the school will have been carefully considered. The practical activities which go on each day will have been planned to ensure that children meet a graded succession of new challenges, with plenty of opportunity to practise newly-acquired mathematical skills.

Why should an infants' school in which so much good mathematical work is already happening use a computer as one of their mathematical resources? Surely all is well, with plenty of first-hand experience to precede concept development and to support its consolidation?

Strangely enough, it is in those infants' schools which apparently have the least need for a micro, within their mathematical work, that the best uses of it are being made. A school which has worked hard to create for the children the kind of working environment which I have described will be all too aware of its small deficiencies. A micro, used occasionally and judiciously, may be able to help.

The other day I visited a first school where Philip and Emerson, both aged six, were playing the computer game *Toyshop*. The screen displays the price of a small toy which appears in a shop window. The children take turns to

nominate a single coin which can be paid towards the cost of the toy, and the player who pays the last coin is the winner. Between them, by taking turns, they had reduced the outstanding price to pay on an 18p toy cat to 6p. It was Philip's turn to choose a coin, and Emerson was looking extremely smug. "Six is a loser," he said confidently.

I was taken aback. After all, it's not immediately obvious. "How's that?" I asked. "Well," he said, "if Philip pays 5p, then I can pay 1p and I will win. If Philip pays 1p then I will pay 5p and I'll win again."

"But Philip might pay 2p," I said, although I could see by Philip's face that he too realized the consequences of such an action. "Oh no," said Philip. "If I pay 2p then Emerson will be on 4p, and that's a winner."

"We know four's a winner," Emerson joined in. "If you're on four, then you have to do is pay a one. That leaves only three to pay and three's a loser."

Philip finished off the explanation: "Pay one and you lose, because there's only two left to pay. Pay two and you lose because there's only one left to pay."

They left the computer to make way for another group, and went to make a note of their findings about six in their book of "Toyshop Discoveries". As they went, Emerson looked back over his shoulder with a big grin on his face. "Six is a loser, then seven's a winner," he said. "And eight," said Philip.

Further up the corridor, some top infants were involved with *The Last Frog*, an adventure game in which a four-storey house must be explored in order to help a frog find its way back to the garden. Through a process of discovering the implications of certain actions, and finding an appropriate

sequence of visits to the rooms in the house, the problem can be solved.

Catherine and Lianne showed me their plan of the house, which they had visualized and pieced together bit by bit after several sessions with the program. Matthew told me how he had developed a strategy for collecting, using and dropping objects in sensible places, since the program limits the number which can be carried at any one time to five. Marlyn showed me the plans he had made for creating his own adventure game, including a detailed map and a tabulated list of objects which could be found, and where they should be used.

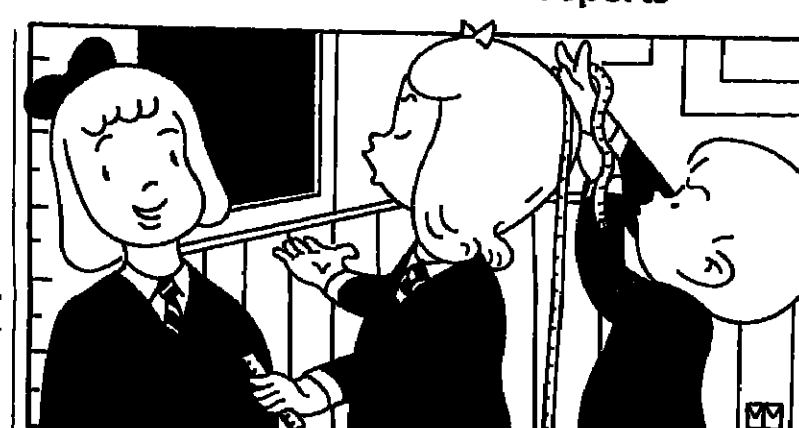
Before the advent of the micro, it was quite hard to find self-supporting material which stimulated "mental mathematics" and which provided, at the same time, an opportunity to develop some logical strategies. In *Toyshop* the computer acts as a neutral referee, making possible an activity which otherwise would have required the presence of an adult or an older child. In *The Last Frog*, the exploration of the rooms described in simple words leads to the visualization and creation of a two-dimensional plan.

There is a slowly-growing quantity of programs for the first school age range, which consist of strategic number games like *Toyshop*, or simple, sometimes illustrated, adventure games like *The Last Frog*. If these can help to stimulate the kind of conversation which Philip and Emerson were having, then their use is more than justified. However, there is an even faster-growing number of programs in which repetitive "sums" are presented to children, with amazing animated and often tenuous rewards for correct responses. Is the use of this practice material equally justified?

Certainly, teachers who have used such programs obtain improved motivation and increased concentration as the part of children using them. The immediate feedback, rather than waiting for a teacher to check the work done, must also be of benefit to many children. Some infant teachers argue, too, that practice programs in which children count or sequence objects, or match shapes, have a place. A reception class teacher can only work with one group of children at a time.

For example, children who have been learning to count by handling and arranging real objects often follow this by colouring in and numbering some stamped outlines of animals or vehicles, so that the teacher can work with the next group. But the use of a program which presents pictures of objects to be counted might be a more meaningful follow-up activity.

Ideas for cheap and simple board games of the snail-and-lark type can be found in plenty of books or magazines and are easily reproduced. Gadgets like the Little Professor can provide randomly-generated sums to do at various levels of difficulty. It is so much more difficult for teachers to create classroom situations which involve genuine problem-solving, yet software exists which provides just the right kind of environment for logical thinking and the development of strategies. Surely a scarce resource should be used for things which are otherwise difficult to do, not for activities which can easily be provided in other ways?



In some infant and first schools the staff have considered these priorities carefully. They opt to make the most substantial use of their computer with the oldest children. The experience of sorting and classifying, which children have had in their first two years, can be extended by making use of a simple database program like *Quersides*. This is a simplified version of *Facile*, which was given to all primary schools as part of the Department of Trade and Industry scheme. *Quersides* allows children to create "pages" of information about themselves following the kind of surveys which might take place within the class. It encourages them to suggest and find answers to questions like: Who is the tallest/shortest? What is the most usual way of travelling to school? Is there a connection between eye colour and hair colour? Do the children with the longest legs run the fastest? Do older children go to bed later?

Once the necessary information has been collected and entered into the program, it can be stored on disk or tape and interrogated in many different ways. A complementary program called *Our Graphs* will display the data on a pictograph, which at the touch of a button can be turned into a bar chart. The children can, therefore, concentrate on the interpretation of different graphs, rather than putting all their effort into making them.

Other infant schools have decided to concentrate first on activities with Bigtrak, a tank-like toy which can be programmed to move forwards or backwards, or to turn left or right. *The Last Frog* are contained in the *Infant and First School Training Pack* due to be published by the Microelectronics in Education Programme. Bigtrak to go to the top of the slope and stop; move in a circle; go all round the table and back to us again; zig-zag

through the bean bags; make the waves on the sea."

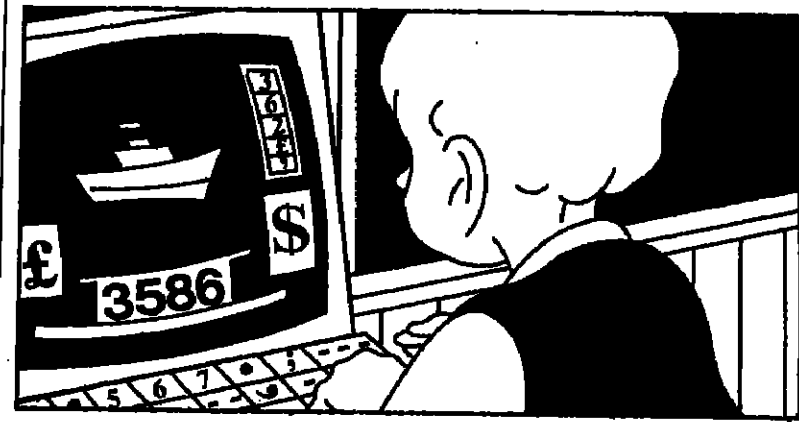
Linda Spear, of the Walsall LOGO project, has listed the snippets of vocabulary which are typical of those used spontaneously by a group of six-year-olds working unsupervised during a 15-minute session with Bigtrak, such as:

Nearest/furthest
A little bit more/less
Too much/not quite enough
In front of/behind
On top of
Go right/left a bit more
Close/not close enough
Try again
You're next/my turn
Let's see what happens if...
What you think...
What about (a number)?
Try (a number) and see
How did you do that?
Can I try that?
Will you show me?

When the children progress from Bigtrak to the use of a floor turtle connected to a computer and a turtle graphics program like *Arrow* or *Dart* a natural progression takes place. The question now is "Can we get the turtle to...?" But this time the challenges are greater since the programming possibilities have been considerably extended.

Perhaps above all else the existence of a micro in the infant or first school will encourage us to think again about the way we teach mathematics to young children.

Our Graphs, *Toyshop*, and *The Last Frog* are contained in the *Infant and First School Training Pack* due to be published by the Microelectronics in Education Programme. Bigtrak to go to the top of the slope and stop; move in a circle; go all round the table and back to us again; zig-zag



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* research commissioned by Webucational, October '84

notes

CHASING THE BANDWAGON
A new film to help secondary schools deal with drug misuse has been launched by the National Council of the YMCA.

Alimed at schools, YTS, voluntary organizations and community groups, "Chasing the Bandwagon" stars comedian Lenny Henry in a spoof documentary investigating the effects on young people of getting into "The Snack Habit". Mustard is used as a metaphor for heroin. The second part is a discussion with a group of 15-year-olds, chaired by Lenny Henry.

The programme is accompanied by an education pack for teachers and is available on 16mm film or video, for hire or purchase, from CFL Vision, Chalfont Grove, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 8TN.

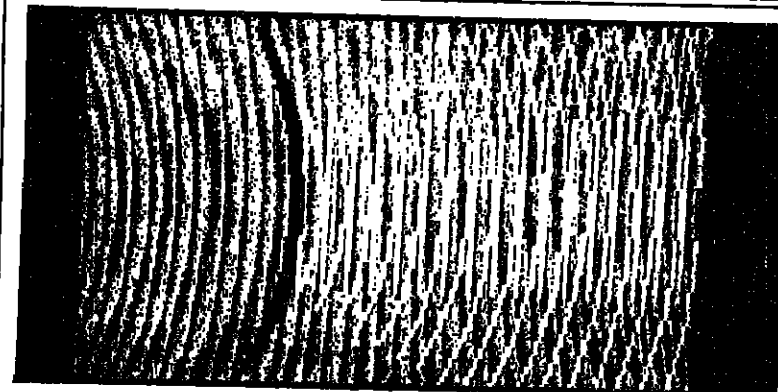
PHOTOGRAPHY FOR EVERYONE
A photography booklet aimed at beginners, in particular children, will be available this week, and a free copy will be sent to any school librarian/head of photography/head of school in exchange for an a.s.e.

The launch of "Photography for Everyone" is timed to coincide with school holidays, in the hope of encouraging children to dig out their cameras and test their photographic skills. The booklet explains how to choose a camera, how it works, how to select the right film and how to take pictures.

To obtain a free copy, send an a.s.e. (at least 9x12 inches and second class stamp, value 22p) to Victoria Henley at Chambers Cox & Co Ltd, 7 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE.

DEUTSCH HEUTE
The second part of Nelson's three-stage German course "Deutsch Heute" is now available. It takes pupils up to CSE examination levels.

The pupils' book 2 (£3.95) and the teachers' resource book 2 (£9.95) can be obtained from Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd, Nelson House, Mayfield Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 5PL.



Wavelengths

Jackie Hardie on two science programs

Waves (1 disk)
Relationships (2 disks)
Disk based software for the model B microcomputer produced for the BBC by Computers in the Curriculum Project £14.95 each including VAT.

It is easy to learn by rote the factors that regulate the spread of the disease malaria and its vector the mosquito, but it is hard to appreciate the complexities of their interaction. In this *Relationships* program should help. This role playing simulation complements a television programme in the BBC *Science Topics* series, which covers relationships such as symbiosis, saprophytism and parasitism.

The user adopts the role of a medical officer in an African village where malaria is endemic and the task is to reduce the level of infection over a six year period of time. A database, derived from the Garki Project (a study of the epidemiology and the control of malaria in the African savanna between 1969 and 76) contains information about the levels of infection and use of control measures.

The background booklet gives additional information about neighbouring villages, outlines the task, gives details of the nature of malaria and the control measures. All of this is straightforward and easy to read. As the medical officer you are permitted only three control measures in any one year and you must keep the overall costs below 1200 dollars for the whole tenure period. You also have to cope with any one of six unexpected events - such as the illness of the instructors in the public awareness programme - that can occur at any time during the six years.

User instructions, menu and graphics are all clear. Using the program is enjoyable and by following the topics for investigation a user should achieve a greater understanding of the life cycle of the malaria parasite and awareness of the problems associated with the eradication of the disease.

Waves, is a suite of computer programs written to accompany the *Science Topics* TV programme of the same name. Like *Relationships* it can be used independently of the program. *Waves* could also be used in conjunction with ripple tank work to emphasize the essentials of wave phenomena. "Propagation", "Reflection", "Refraction", "Interference" and "Diffraction" are members of the suite and a determined effort has gone into keeping each one simple. Certain keys are used to set values and produce animation and scripts at the bottom of pages in the instruction booklet will help to identify these.

On selecting and running a program, the menu appeared and for each of the five it was clear. "Propagation" demonstrates movement of plain and circular waves and it is possible to alter the wavelength and specify the media through which the waves are travelling. There is a "freeze" function which enables the separation of the wave front to be measured.

This is a valuable feature and if used with a large screen VDU could rival the ripple tank. This could also be said of "Refraction" where the effect of crossing a straight or a curved boundary between two media of different refractive indices on a plain wave front is shown. This is very difficult to demonstrate on a ripple tank. Other programs are good, apart from minor irritations: for instance in "Reflections" the straight and curved surfaces can be moved across the screen but only the straight reflector can be rotated. It might have been better if different colours had been used for the reflecting surface and to have a standard parabola to show how headlamp reflectors and the like work. In "Interference" you can be overwhelmed by the flashing dots on the screen although the recommended "single stepping" will help.

Both programs are useful for other school work in the secondary school and are especially good for revision purposes.

Against the clock

Peter Moody on maths programs

Maths for Micros: Number 1
by Ruth Walker and Arnold Howell
Addison Wesley Publishers Ltd, Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 2NZ

Eight programs on 2 disks for either BBC or RML 480Z (cassette versions also available).
Supplied with Teachers' Guide and Pupil's Book £29.95

Maths has always been the obvious target for CAL, but the irony is that, while exciting developments have taken place in other subject areas, maths software rarely shows us the computer as the contributor of something unique, something that can't be done just as well in other ways.

This is the first of a series of five packs of programs and Pupil Books stable. One Teachers' Guide covers all five, though rather misleadingly it has the title "Number 1" on the cover. The "aim to supplement whatever primary mathematics scheme is in use". This pack, Number 1, covers a range of topics in number work mostly at the top infant/lower junior stage: place value, counting and operations in tens and units, multiplication, tables and division as well as money and simple tallying and bar charts.

The Teachers' Guide has an impressive list of aims, including encouragement of mathematical thinking, stimulating problem solving, stimulating creativity, creating opportunity for discussions, as well as providing more practice in skills and consolidating knowledge. The reality is somewhat less impressive: there is very little here beyond drill and practice - an awful lot of sums to be done against the clock.

The Teachers' Guide gives a useful overview of the material, including hints on classroom organization, a chart of topics covered and a set of black-line masters as well as program descriptions. The Pupil's Book has four pages for each program - one of preparation, two on running the program, one for follow up. This format was basically a good idea, but it is not properly worked through. So many of the drills are against the clock that little

real group work is possible on the computer, and the follow-up is so brief in the book that it is barely more than hints for the teacher.

Indeed, as with so much primary software, insufficient help is given about what sort of pupil grouping is appropriate: an honest answer would be that most of this is only suited for individual use. And at that level, there are some very good examples of careful remedial help when a pupil makes persistent mistakes, though some pupils will find the persistent pressure of time irksome.

There are a few good opportunities for discussion - patterns in a hundred square in the *Stocktaking* program, looking for sequence patterns in *Countdown*; but those contexts that are used are highly artificial and make poor use of the graphics - "real-life addition stories" involving eggs, marbles and stamps; pictures of rabbits and tricycles which confuse rather than help consolidate 2x and 3x tables. And the contexts very soon give way to the bald sums!

One cannot help feeling that it would have been better to set out to marry the programs much more closely to existing published pupil material. Teachers need much more help in sorting out what to use, when and with whom. Micros will only be used effectively when they are fully integrated to the teaching scheme in use: these programs fail to provide much more than practice (enjoyable and motivational as that may be) and place too great a burden on the teacher to effect that integration.

Sweetening the pill

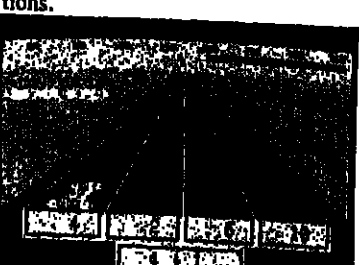
by Bob Doe

Number Painter
Estimator Racer
For Sinclair and BBC
Pison with ASK
£4.95

The Sunflower Number Show
Macmillan Software
£5.95 Sinclair 48K
£6.95 for BBC.

Play is a certain blend of effort and fun. When the fun starts to wear thin it becomes work. Few attempts to sweeten the pill of arithmetic quite manage to avoid the distinctive after taste of sums-by-another-name. But the excellent *Number Painter* comes very close.

This program approaches arcade standard gaming and graphics. The arithmetic element is at times almost incidental; more so than in darts, for instance, which would not last five minutes as a game for adults were it not for its convivial public house associations.



Chris Roper, Technical Director of Logotron, said that sprites would add some extra excitement to LOGO. Turtle graphics, he added, lagged behind what children were accustomed to in the way of computer graphics.

Collaborating with Systems d'Ordinateur Logo International (SOLI) in Paris, Logotron is working to produce a range of Logo related products for schools and colleges. Next in line is "Advanced LOGO", more sophisticated procedures to add on to basic LOGO and the eagerly awaited Control LOGO, which allows Logotron to drive a whole series of kit-built vehicles.

The instant appeal of this game is the chirpy little decorator himself and enthusiasm is maintained by the careful graduation of difficulty levels. Both the size of the numbers and complexity of arithmetic increase at the higher

levels, with multiplication and division making an appearance. The scaffolding too develops pitfalls - holes through which the printer can fall, causing comic-book stunts to orbit his head and a numerical set back in the score.

This game depends as much on manual dexterity as numeracy, particularly at the lower levels where it is possible to play with very little resort to the arithmetic involved. Provided the numbers being collected have the right sign, the score only has to be marginally adjusted to the target figure in the final stages.

Once hooked on the game, the player progresses inexorably towards the more demanding arithmetic and is required to use more sophisticated number skills to meet the deadline.

One irritating feature mars an otherwise excellent program. That is the use of apparently arbitrary keys to control the cursor keys. No doubt there is a technical reason for this, though it is hard to see an educational one.

The same strictures apply to the otherwise quite good *Estimator Racer*. Aimed at developing "a feel for numbers", this consists of a straight race track divided into four lanes. Below each lane a number is displayed and beneath that an answerless sum. The object is to steer a racing car into the lane which has a number closest to the answer to the sum. This avoids a rock in the road which stalls the car and causes a mechanic to walk on to the track and hop up and down in the correct lane. Players rapidly take a dislike to this amusing knowall.

The estimation skills this aims to develop are, of course, important. It seems rather pointless, however, to provide wrong-but-near numbers at the lowest level for children still struggling with basic number patterns. They may simply be confused to find the "right" answer to four plus four is seven or resort to working out the right answer and then finding which number is nearest to it - which isn't estimation.

The arcade "feel" of this game makes it popular, none the less, and deservedly so. The speed of the car (and therefore of the estimation) is under the control of the player who is

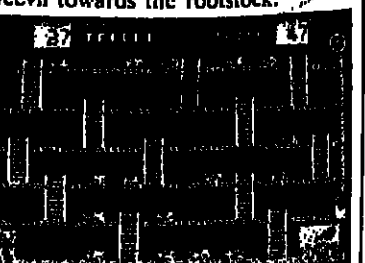
therefore able to build confidence and skills gradually in this sometimes neglected area of maths.

Choice of car, clear roads or oil slicks which cause the car to veer off, a practice session and automatic demonstration add to *Estimator Racer's* variation and versatility.

Macmillan Software's *Sunflower Number Show* is a more mundane attempt to cultivate interest in number. This approach is not so much animated as vegetated, implanting once again the idea that maths is about doing things to two numbers to create a third for no apparent reason.

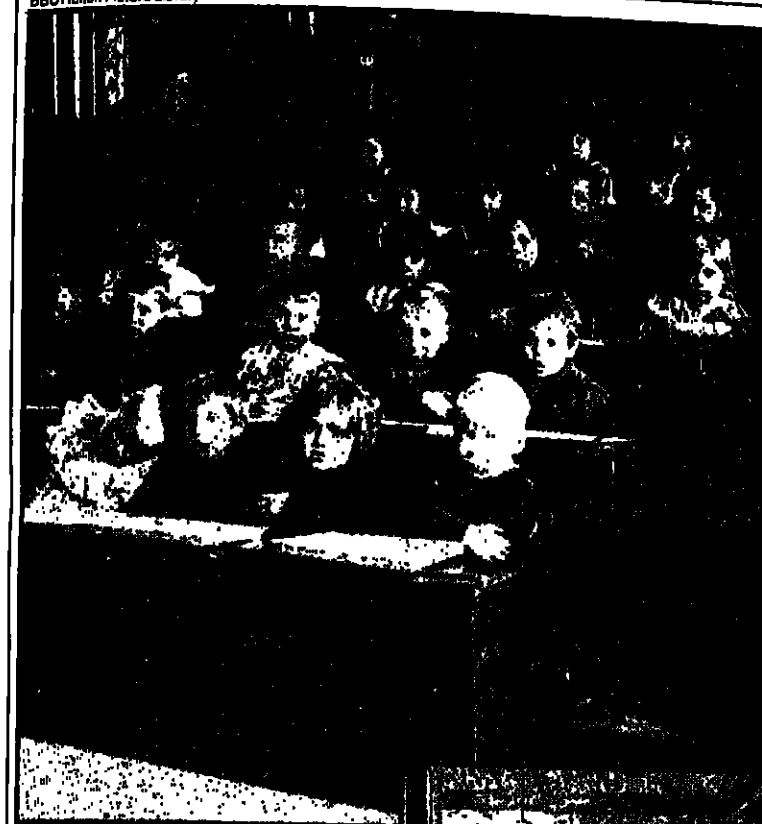
There are more than 2,000 ways of playing the game, we are told - a reference to the comprehensive variety of options which do make it a particularly flexible program of its kind. The type of sum (add, subtract, multiply, divide, random mix or tables) can be selected along with the number of right answers needed to "win" or the number of wrong ones to count against you. Thinking time and size of numbers can also be set.

The sunflower patch is the first game. The requisite number of right answers causes a sunflower to grow to maturity whereupon a bird flies off and the gardener is rewarded with a "well done" and an entry in the top scorers list. Wrong answers move an evil weevil towards the rootstock.



With its relentless plus b format, however, the *Sunflower Number Show* never becomes anything but electronic sums and the learner is never in any doubt about whether he or she is a player or worker.

BBC Picture Library



Programmes four and five are devoted to issues which are of considerable current interest, namely equality of opportunity and vocational education... It is interesting to hear again some of the same arguments which were rehearsed in the earlier parts of the present century, though at its best TVEI... need not be a repeat of the dreary horrors of yesteryear.

Wood work

SCHOOL RADIO
Class studies: Using Wood
To be repeated next year.

The title is probably as uninspiring to many contemporary practitioners of CDT as Rentokil is to woodworm. However, once beyond the title a pleasant surprise greets the listener. What is presented is particularly relevant to the teacher. It is an interactive resource package, which creates a purposeful dialogue through a series of questions that pupils can research and analyse, and to which they can produce "practical answers."

What is presented is a resource package, good in parts, which could prove a useful addition to the repertoire of reference material for the new 16-plus design realization courses. These courses expect pupils to have a broad knowledge and understanding of a number of materials and more detailed understanding of a selected few, which could include wood.

Six programmes attempt fairly successfully to present some updated information about wood and its many facets, by approaching the subject matter from a technological slant rather than "chiselling away at the old

craft technique methodology". Pupils are encouraged to learn through a self-directed approach, questions being posed throughout the six programmes, with back-up provided by a corresponding pupil's work book.

Lindsay King, the programme's presenter, injects enthusiasm into the subject matter and one feels that she has taken the listener on an exploratory journey within the context of history, applied science, biotechnology, art, music, design and technology.

At certain stations along the route Miss King stops, questions and listens to specialists who guide us through by describing the application of wood within their own experience. Some of these specialist guides do not engender much interest in the subject and one wonders whether the journey is worth pursuing. Others, for example the wood technologists, explain clearly and concisely the qualities of the material and would certainly inspire in pupils the desire to find out more.

At times I feel the programme is reminiscent at too great a length about bygone days, for example the application of wood in windmills or the mosquito aircraft. Today's youngster would probably prefer more reference to contemporary development and use

of wood in such applications as gliders, micro-lites, timber frame constructions, power boats and so on. Pupils need concrete examples which have some relation to their everyday life. Lindsey King, the programme's presenter, injects enthusiasm into the subject matter and one feels that she has taken the listener on an exploratory journey within the context of history, applied science, biotechnology, art, music, design and technology.

In contrast, the example and use and application of wood in electric and acoustic guitars does provide a tangible situation and pupils will no doubt look at *Top of the Pops* in a different light. I have certain reservations about the level of language used in the programmes, particularly the technical terminology which may be difficult for pupils to understand without more visual reference than is at present provided by the booklets. Certain techniques which are described by the specialists, such as complexities of inlay work or chipboard production, require more detailed, annotated diagrams to facilitate comprehension. In conclusion, one must state that while the journey into technology of wood is worth undertaking, it is a journey which teachers should supplement by demonstrations, discussions, follow-up projects and assignments.

Paul Burton

briefings
radio & tv
Open University

WATER FOR JORDAN
(Saturday, 11.25 BBC2)
A film of the Jordanians' struggle to bring adequate supplies of water to the whole population and to resume the agricultural industry of the Jordan Valley.

Continuing education and general interest

NEW FOR OLD
(Saturday, 16.00 VHF4)
A six-part series about business in Britain begins with a visit to "Instant Muscle". This organization advises young people on starting up a business and keeps in close contact with groups it sponsors.

SPORTS COACHING
(Saturday, 17.00 VHF4)
David Icke studies the nationwide campaign to improve the standard of basic coaching in a variety of sports. He also considers sport and health and the mental approach to training.

EUROMAGAZINE
(Sunday, 17.20 VHF4)
The last in a group of programmes for advanced learners of Italian. Features a topical interview with Giulio Andreotti, five times prime minister and now foreign minister in Italy's 46th government since the war. Andreotti gives his personal view of Italian politics as a new president is chosen.

BECKET
(Sunday, 19.00 R3)
Ian Holm is Becket and David Buck Henry II in an adaptation of Jean Anouilh's play by Roger Pines to mark the author's 75th birthday.

YOUNG LIVES
(Sunday, 20.30 R4)
How have options on leaving school changed over the last 25 years? Young people, their parents and teachers discuss changes in attitude and prospects for the school leavers of the eighties.

GETTING OFF HEROIN
(Tuesday, 18.02 R4)
Frances Donnelly talks to former addicts and people working in treatment centres in an attempt to find out what is involved in breaking free from heroin addiction.

FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH
(Thursday, 20.00 C4)
"The Kuru Mystery" is the first of a new documentary series in which Dr June Goodfield explores the way doctors and scientists approach the long-term goal of eradicating illnesses.

Class history

Ted Wragg on the BBC's television history of popular education

CONTINUING EDUCATION
The People's Schools
BBC2, Thursdays from July 11, 7.15pm.

If you enjoy the nostalgia of the evocative Hovis adverts then this series of five television programmes on the history of popular education will bring tears to your eyes. Indeed programme one was located firmly in Hovis advert territory, the banked terraces of Northern cities like Bradford, and features the Army Mills Industrial Museum in Leeds, where children can dress up in 19th-century clothes and relive the authoritarian teaching of post-Forster Act mass education in a specially recreated Victorian classroom.

The series concentrates on the education of future proletarians rather than

paricians, and the programme's slightly sepulchral voice-over constantly stresses the repetitive drills, drab uniformity and programmed obedience which were thought to be essential ingredients in the preparation of future factory fodder. There is imaginative use of sepia still photographs, some clever juxtapositions of factory and school shots, and interviews with retired teachers and others whose memories stretch back to these times.

Though the first programme emphasizes the more mechanical aspects of education in post-Industrial Revolution Britain, subsequent ones take up different themes. In the second programme the focus is on teaching, showing how pupil teachers were given crash courses in the Lancasterian schools so that they would instruct their younger fellows.

I would have appreciated here a broader view than that of the narrowly conceived Bell and Lancaster model which produced zombies rather than imaginative teachers. For example in David Stow's Glasgow Normal Seminary in the 19th century, trained teachers enjoyed a much more sophisticated and enlightened preparation which included classes in the psychology of learning, "gallery lessons" when student teaching was analysed by tutors and fellow students, and the use of adventure playgrounds.

The third programme takes as its topic "barriers", the Victorian notion that schools were like railway carriages, to be divided into first, second

and third class according to pupils' slightly sepulchral voice-over constantly stresses the repetitive drills, drab uniformity and programmed obedience which were thought to be essential ingredients in the preparation of future factory fodder. There is imaginative use of sepia still photographs, some clever juxtapositions of factory and school shots, and interviews with retired teachers and others whose memories stretch back to these times.

Programmes four and five are devoted to issues which are of considerable current interest, namely equality of opportunity and vocational education. The development of the MSC funded Technical and Vocational Education Initiative has resurrected the debate about selection and the curriculum. It is interesting to hear again some of the same arguments which were rehearsed in the earlier parts of the present century, though at its best TVEI, where it incorporates the notion of experience-led learning and the negotiated curriculum, need not be a repeat of the dreary horrors of yesteryear.

These interesting programmes, though critical of repression, bigotry and mass production education where they occur, are not ranting Marxist indictments of popular education under capitalism. The imaginative use of people like Margaret Macmillan, the positive contribution of pioneering institutions like the Birmingham Municipal School of Jewellery and the Holyhead County Secondary School in Anglesey, are well recognized. The programmes certainly depict all too clearly, however, the historical origins of some of the criticism still found in HMI reports, such as the occurrence of too much whole-class teaching and mechanical copying into books.

WORKING PAPERS FOR
16+ MEDIA STUDIES

Working papers for 16+ Media Studies is a joint venture between the Clwyd Media Studies Unit and the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, Birmingham University.

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Christopher Poynt
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Richard Johnston
3. "You need Grace, Guts and Incredible Beauty (or falling that you can cheat)" - *Teen-Love* Magazines
Kate Bruder
4. Ways of Reading Representations: The Visual Text - Looking at Advertisements
Ann Cullis
5. The Audience as Issue and as Problem
Michael Green

Case Studies

1. The National Press and Greenham
Daniel Charlton & Celia McDonagh
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Alan Brookfield
3. "The Sun" and the Falklands/Malvinas War
Kate Bruder
4. Looking at Dance Craze Films
Anne Pawling
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Robert G. Holland
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4 Titles Available For Recording from Sunday 7th July 1985
Approximate Transmission Times

Day	Time	Title	Code
Sunday 7th July	5.00pm	Back To The Roots: Old Plans - New Uses - Repeat For Code B	B
Monday 8th July	4.00pm	Whose Town Is It Anyway? Sheffield: What Future for Local Government - Repeat For Code B	B
Tuesday 9th July	5.30pm	Anything We Can Do: Series 1: Hell Of A Noise - Repeat For Code B	B
Wednesday 10th July	6.00pm	Wales - Landscapes & Legends: Testament of Trees Part 2, For Code B	B
Sunday 7th July	8.00pm	Looking Track: Capital City For Code F	F
Monday 8th July	8.10pm	Diverse Reports For Code B	B
Tuesday 9th July	8.15pm	A Week In Politics For Code B	B
Wednesday 10th July	9.15pm	2020 Vision: Earthquake - The Debate For Code D	D

For more information contact: GUILD LICENSING, 8 Rye, St. Peterborough PE1 5YB (0733) 313315. Late Charges (0733) 313325.

WHAT IS SOFTWARE?



For details of the following BBC Educational Software ring 01-927 4875: Advanced Studies: Geography, Introducing Geography, Maths-with a Story!, Using Your Computer, The Mole Concept, Uniformly Accelerated Motion and Astronomy.

bits

Sprites

Logotron, the company which recently published a full version of LOGO for the BBC micro has brought out a Sprite Board which could open up a whole new world for Logo users. Sprites are turtles (objects) which when controlled under Logo can be programmed to rapidly change shape and speed as well as interact together on the screen, creating the illusion of animated motion.

Chris Roper, Technical Director of Logotron, said that sprites would add some extra excitement to LOGO. Turtle graphics, he added, lagged behind what children were accustomed to in the way of computer graphics.

Collaborating with Systems d'Ordinateur Logo International (SOLI) in Paris, Logotron is working to produce a range of Logo related products for schools and colleges. Next in line is "Advanced LOGO", more sophisticated procedures to add on to basic LOGO and the eagerly awaited Control LOGO, which allows Logotron to drive a whole series of kit-built vehicles.

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The urgent need for 'now'

continued
led net of authority, enhancing that authority in the process. It is all too readily forgotten, however, that, in the case of one of the methodologies, the music being used to perpetuate this present authority sprang originally from the life experiences of long-dead folk-singers and musicians. These musicians formed a healthier kind of elite, similar in broad terms to that of present-day pop musicians. At the time their songs had a relevance which is equivalent to that of pop music today: they sprang from, and related to, real experience. However, in today's classroom, such music must inevitably be distanced from the pupils in time and experience, and through translation.

Likewise, however potent the results of Carl Orff's school teaching experiences in Germany during the 1930s, extracts from his *Schulwerk* often merely serve to convey a sense of musical *deja-vu*, a reinforcement of that comfortable complacency I mentioned earlier. To paraphrase John Cage, "It is pleasant if you happen to hear them, but it isn't urgent to do so any more". What is urgent, though, is that music education should take proper account of today's pop music and of the society for which it springs.

I am not, of course, arguing that the bulk of music education in this context is meaningless, or that classical music does not have the potential to enrich the lives of us all; such an argument, if carried to its logical conclusion, would result in the musical equivalent of throwing out the baby with the bath water. Rather, my point is that a music teacher training system which is dominated by those whose methods, materials and ideas derive solely from classical music is not capable of producing teachers who can successfully communicate that potential within today's society.

What is needed is a fundamental change in teacher training, a displacement at the centre of the curriculum of a substantial part of the "then" in favour of the "now". This should involve, first, a reexamination of what is done and of the reasons for doing it; and, second, a reassessment of the teacher trainers themselves, concentrating on their capabilities *vis-a-vis* such a curriculum.

It is significant, in relation to the latter point, that recent school teaching experience is presently being required of those involved in teacher training. This requirement often results in the making of *ad hoc* arrangements whereby lecturers go into a school of their choice once or twice a week to "keep in touch". The value of such an exercise is questionable; indeed, some would argue that it is at best little more than a superficial form of window-dressing, designed more to keep the inspectors happy than to achieve positive and lasting results. However, the exercise should surely be the more seriously questioned when it results in music education lecturers entering classrooms for the first time in what may be decades uninvolved of the changes in the music and culture of those they are to teach. For such teacher trainers a night at Hammersmith Odeon is more urgently needed than a night at Covent Garden, an experience of the "now" in Chaka Khan's music more essential than a reinforcement of the "then" in an opera by Mozart.

It is only in this way that music education lecturers will become equipped to meet the fundamental challenge which faces them, that of, as Pamela O'Gorman says, "divorcing music from its class and colour connotations and reaching the heart of the music in terms of human expression and human aspiration". It is only thus that they can hope to meet the needs of today's students, teachers and pupils in school. Can this really be too much to ask?

Michael Burnett is senior lecturer in music at Southlands College, Reims-normandie Institute of Higher Education.

At the double Jenny Gilbert on the Mini-Bass Project

The double bass has always been the poor relation of an otherwise glamorous string family, rarely getting the limelight or even a good tune. Its disadvantages loom large: not least the expense (upwards of £700 for a reasonable school model) and the miserable weight to lug about.

It's also physically hard to play, although in the early stages it can yield quick rewards - perhaps because a gravelly bottom G played flat is less painful than the violin's tippy version. But this in itself has encouraged the unfortunate assumption that the instrument is particularly suited to students who are large, unintelligent, or who have failed to master anything else. Little wonder that despite a constant demand for good bass players in both classical and jazz groups, professional and amateur, the instrument's PR has always been poor.

The interest shown by specialist music courses has been scant. ILEA's Tower Hamlets scheme, where all children are taught a stringed instrument as part of the curriculum, has so far kept to violin and cello. Even the *crème de la crème* at the Yehudi Menuhin School are denied bass as a serious first study, taught by a professional bassist in the local authorities' specialist teachers are like gold-dust, often travelling hundreds of miles a week to



Carolyn Emery's pupils at the Mini-Bass Club

reach far-flung pupils. And in the logical, democratic way of things, when the cuts come, the least popular study will be the first to go.

Very often cello teachers offer bass tuition too, a practice frowned upon by many specialists. Rodney Slatford, busy freelance performer and professor of double bass at the Royal College of Music, is dismayed by the trend. "If tuition on the violin were to be entrusted to cellists I'm sure the outcry would soon reach a fortissimo. It's unthinkable. But the bass has an age-old reputation for muddling through."

Rodney Slatford and his RCM colleagues have to listen to the results of the muddle every year when school-leavers audition for music college places. "The standards are often appalling. While *Le Nozze di Figaro* can usually dash off a Mozart concerto or unaccompanied Bach, the bass players often haven't even reached Grade 8. Bassists who are advanced at the age of 18 are rare - the best begun when they were quite young."

It was this last observation that prompted Mr Slatford to act. If the Suzuki method could start three and four-year-olds on 9" fiddles, and proffer under-sized cellos to children of six, why not scale down the double bass so that a seven-year-old could tackle it? Miniature models have been crafted in the past, but are now rare and mostly highly-priced antiques. The new mini-bass would have to be mass-produced and cheap.

Initial enquiries round British manufacturers and dealers drew a blank ("There's no demand"). The French and Germans were more forthcoming but their prices were sky-high. It was an instrument maker in Rumania who finally turned up trumps, producing a quarter-sized bass to Slatford's specifications at a very reasonable price. Curiously, when the prototype arrived from Rumania - by train and boat - it was found to have been punctured in the back leaving a small neat hole. Ratting loose inside was a small neat beetle. The hole has been patched up, but no-one to this day knows how it got there.

Early this year the first consignment arrived (without perforations); 35 humanoid bundles which had to be housed for some time in Rodney Slatford's drawing room before being despatched from a school in South London. In order to administer what has come to be known as the "Mini-Bass Project", Slatford and a handful of like-minded colleagues set up the charitable York Trust, which now attracts funds from the Gulbenkian Foundation. Their aim was to promote specialists to teach it, publishing music to play on it, and supplying mini-kits to young players at cost price.

For £350 you get a handsome instrument strung with top-class strings (which they say make all the difference), a stubby little bow, a wooden stool to sit on (which encourages a healthy playing posture), a curious

strip of pierced wood to prevent the spike from slipping, and a padded carrying case. No-one at this end makes any profit.

Around 40 kits are now in the hands of eager seven to ten-year-olds around the country, under the eye of York Trust teachers. Their problem is now less one of whipping up enthusiasm than of keeping it on the boil. There are long waiting lists for the next consignment of instruments, and the wait is likely to be long. Only the other day the Trust was told that the new East German order had fallen through. There's a ready-made market for a British manufacturer if the right price can be offered. The ILEA and other authorities have put in orders, and the Royal College of Music is to start a mini-bass course for beginners on Saturday mornings.

Carolyn Emery in Surrey has 35 pupils (many of them sharing a mini-bass at school) and in the nine months since the start of the scheme not one has dropped out. Many have made remarkable progress, with entries for Grades 2 and 3 this term. Tuition is loosely based on aspects of Suzuki and the American Rolland systems of string teaching, with a good dose of Alexander Technique thrown in. Bass players can suffer bad neck and back problems if posture isn't constantly checked, and with such young bodies this is a serious consideration.

Once a fortnight 10 of Mrs Emery's actual pupils gather for Mini-Bass Club. "It gives them self-respect," says their teacher, "Bass players in the past have been so isolated. These kids are really proud of what they're doing, and feel they're the pioneers." There is certainly a clanish spirit there, and a lot of good-natured rivalry as to who can play the best tune (commendable) or with the most volume. The room positively thundered when all 10 boys played "Dance of the Dinosaurs" at full pelt.

Asked if there were any reason why the Club should be all boys, the response came promptly, from all corners. "This is our kind of instrument... Girls like higher, neater things like the flute." Now where on earth can they have picked that up?

In the beginning, you might say, there was *The Daniel Jazz*. This cantata for schools in popular style by Herbert Chappell has a strong claim to being first in the field. Written in 1963 to an existing poem by Vachel Lindsay, "Daniel" arrived at a time when much of the music written for schools was created by people who perceived children as amusing little beggars with a liking for skipping, jumping and gaily marching along. Small wonder that Chappell's work was not only successful in its own right but became an archetype for a whole genre. At the request of Novello, the publishers of "Daniel", there followed soon after Michael Hurd's *Jonah-Man Jazz*. For my money this is still the best of the bunch - partly I confess, because of my own fond memories of a performance I conducted which was accompanied by a professional jazz pianist. Tactfully and slightly alarming in manner, this gentleman punched out ten-fingered versions of Hurd's chords in a way which galvanized the choir into surpassing themselves.

As a musical form, the cantata has proved itself convenient for schools. The task of learning linked songs which unfold a developing narrative presents a worthwhile challenge, and at the usual length of fifteen to thirty minutes, not only is the task manageable, but the finished product makes a good focal point for a school concert. Given the popularity of the genre and the demand for more examples, it is not surprising that the Biblical seam was mined to exhaustion in the 1960s and 1970s. Well known Old Testament stories are, after all, finite in number. Novello gave us *Captain Noah* and his *Floating Zoo* by Joseph Horowitz and Michael Planders, and also Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat*. After that, somehow, the stories seemed more difficult to cantata composers - perhaps because of the feeling which seems to afflict those who rarely read it that the Bible is all very well until it starts to get religious.

The one exception to this general feeling of reserve lies in the Nativity story which continues to in-

After the Bible, what?

Gerald Haigh considers cantatas for schools

spire a steady stream of music of all possible kinds. There are to my knowledge two cantatas with the title of *A Christmas Jazz*. One is by Herbert Chappell, published by Chappell. The other is by Kenneth Cartwright and published by Boosey and Hawkes. Cartwright's is, I think, the better one of the two, though it has a demanding accompaniment and those wishing for a good standard of performance had better start looking for a wild-eyed jazz pianist of their own - preferably one who will bring along a lugubrious bass player and a very self-confident drummer with a small moustache.

After the Bible, what? Michael Hurd wrote *Pilgrim*, a setting of *Pilgrim's Progress*. This was a commissioned work and he admits to having found it difficult to construct a unified dramatic piece out of what is essentially an episodic story. The apparent simplicity of the cantata form does in fact hide the very real problem which composer and author face in building and projecting a real story, with tension and natural progression, using only the medium of a static group of singers. Once you start looking for stories, there are plenty around. Oxford University Press have published a version of *Daedalus and Icarus* by Robert Long as well as *The Jackdaw of Rheims* by Frank French, and a look in a good music shop will show how thoroughly the ground has been tilled with results which range all the way from bad to excellent.

As to style, Novello continued to press on with the jazz-pop idiom, which, as it is not really jazz and is certainly not pop in the "Whistle Test" sense, actually turns out to be a light and rhythmic melange unlike anything except itself. Hurd's latest is *Adam in Eden*. The tone which Michael Hurd and Herbert Chappell have adopted is very appealing and undoubtedly motivates many otherwise unwilling pupils. Hurd sees this winning over of non-musical children as one of the most important aspects of his work in this field, and he cherishes letters from all over the world which tell of successes.

The jazz-pop cantata is not without its problems, though. For one thing it really does need to be written well. It is not so sound derivative and banal, and not all composers are Michael Hurd or Kenneth Cartwright. It is also a good idea for swinging music to be performed by a teacher who understands it. There are some very unhelpful music teachers, and very sometimes hear performances of "Jonah" or "Daniel" which put you in mind of nothing so much as the Prince of Wales breaking dance.

OUP have never wedded themselves to the jazz-pop style. John Bryan, for instance, has written for them two pieces, *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Selfish Giant*, which are lively, rhythmic and decidedly straightforward. Bryan is a talented cantata composer. His words and rhymes are good and unforgotten, and his music consists of pleasant tunes underpinned by simple piano accompaniment. Bryan has that ability to turn out lots and lots of felicitous and singable tunes

which used to be the hallmark of the good light musical comedy composer in an earlier and less complicated age.

The Selfish Giant is an Oscar Wilde story, and Veronica Bennett also goes to Wilde for her *The Happy Prince*, published by Blackwell. This is a musical play rather than a cantata, though it offers the option of concert performance and is quite suitable for it. This is a musical piece, if a bit too clever for its own good at times. I remain unconvinced by the introduction of punk rockers, particularly when they sing "Stawadi-wadi-wadi-wa," which I do not think anyone has uttered since 1956.

There will always be a place for a good cantata. Arguably, though, there are progressive forces at work in schools which make other forms easily possible. At secondary level it is becoming increasingly common for music, drama and movement teachers to work together, and the single subject specialist music teacher is a rarer bird in junior schools than was the case

20 years ago. Many good school and youth choirs, too, are becoming conscious of the need to do more than just stand there and sing. There is a place, therefore, for the good dramatic musical, provided that it provides enough flexibility for the interpolation of home-made material and ideas. Macmillan's Musicals help to fill this gap, and the two which I have seen, Geoffrey Brace's *All Aboard* and Peter Horton's *Ossie and the Thwartz* are of excellent quality and very imaginatively presented. A secondary school looking for something which will give the producer some elbow room would do well to look at them.

One thing I do find sadly lacking, though, is anything from any publisher which is really avant-garde and improvisatory. C major chords and pretty tunes are all very well, but after a while I began to long for black wavy lines and exhortations to whistle and call out the telephone number of the Co-op. Children will gleefully respond to this kind of thing. Is no-one doing it?

- The Daniel Jazz* by Herbert Chappell Novello £1.30
Jonah-Man Jazz by Michael Hurd Novello £1.30
Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo by Horowitz and Planders Novello £2.15 (SATB version £3.20)
Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber Novello £5.80 (abridged version £2.00)
A Christmas Jazz by Herbert Chappell Chappell £2.25
A Christmas Jazz by Kenneth Cartwright Boosey and Hawkes £3.25 (Words only 35p)
Pilgrim by Michael Hurd Novello £1.60
Daedalus and Icarus by Robert Long OUP £3.50
The Jackdaw of Rheims by Frank French OUP £2.95
Adam in Eden by Michael Hurd Novello £1.05
Rip Van Winkle by John Bryan OUP £2.95
The Selfish Giant by John Bryan OUP £2.95
The Happy Prince by Veronica Bennett Blackwell £3.95
All Aboard by Geoffrey Brace Macmillan £5.95 (Pupil's Book £2.95)
Ossie and the Thwartz by Peter Horton Macmillan £4.95 (Pupil's Book £2.60)
- Gerald Haigh is headmaster of Henry Bellairs C E Middle School, Nuneaton

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The early childhood memories of the eminent Victorian novelist are told with poetic licence in 14 songs and the occasional instrumental interlude. The tunes are pleasant enough although they would probably sound more effective with an orchestral or small ensemble accompaniment than with a piano on its own. A little more rhythmic variety, such as has been attempted in "Deprived" and "The Music Box", would have been welcome. The cantata would need a music specialist to exploit the accompaniment ideas to their full potential. However, a virtue

of the package is that it could be used by the teacher with minimal musical expertise, since the cassette contains the songs and piano accompaniment, and many of the songs also have a simple classroom percussion part as well. The project book gives background historical information, illustrations to be coloured (a little amateurish), art and craft suggestions, and opportunities for further research. *Young Dickens* has a distinctly local flavour but despite this would be worth investigation as it demonstrates admirably that where there is a will to integrate music into the curriculum there can also be a way.

P D

Young Dickens was recently performed in Rochester Cathedral by third-year pupils at St Anne's R C Primary School, Orpington, Kent.

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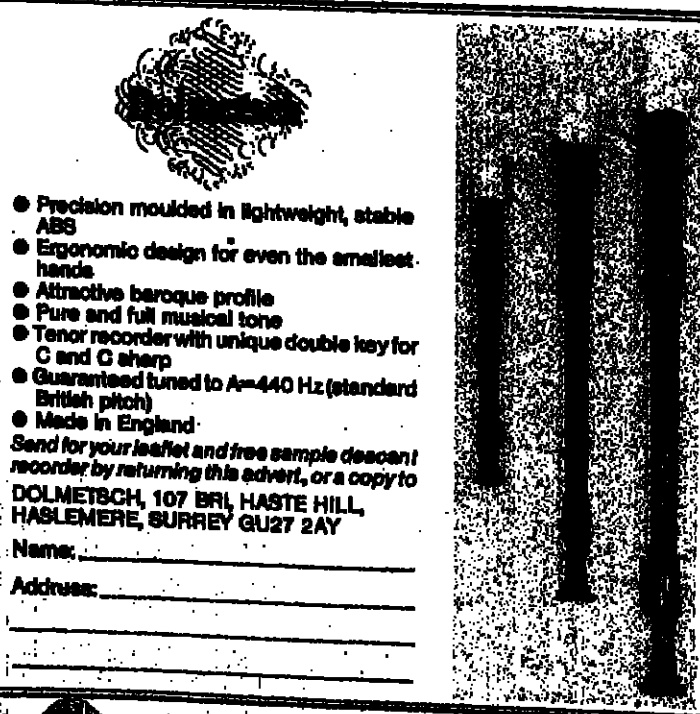
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Phil Ellis on the role of new technology in music

"At present, I think we are still more in love with the latest radio machine for the power it gives us to twiddle the knobs and get anything and anywhere, rather than for the tremendous possibilities it offers to enrich our everyday lives."

So wrote Michael Tippett in *Moving into Aquarius* in 1945. Forty years later, in 1985, whether we like it or not, the new technology is here to stay. It has made considerable differences to our lives already, and these differences are going to become even more significant. Our response to this situation is important. Putting our heads in the sand is obviously not the answer. Tastes change with time, and what was once new and hence "difficult" often turns out to be valuable when viewed in retrospect.

Electronics - echo units, tape recorders, synthesizers, etc. - have been with us for a number of years, but their potential for use within the music curriculum has yet to be fully realized and implemented. The computer is a new medium and evaluation is consequently difficult. To judge the value of a book is comparatively easy. Books have been around for a long time and so there are perceived ways of writing good ones. With computer programmes it is not always so easy to discover what are inherently good or bad programmes. No teacher would choose a book simply because of its glossy cover or good quality print, but can the same be said for the computer programme, or even the computer? Many programmers are concerned more with the quality of their programming skills than with the educational potential of their programmes. If the graphics are good, if the programme doesn't "crash out" - come to a full stop if an expected key is pressed or answer given - if it is entertaining and colourful and has some catchy sounds as well then it must somehow be "good". In order to sell a programme, must it be gimmicky?

Many teachers seem anxious to use the computer in their music lessons - perhaps just "because it is there", or "because it's new and everyone else is using one" rather than for its intrinsic value to music education. The computer has been hurriedly introduced to the classroom and without good software it can be positively harmful.

The same is true of analogue electronics (non-digital, not computer-based - tape recorders, etc.). There seems no point in trying to use this equipment to do what has been successfully done to date, merely for the sake of novelty. Analogue and digital music equipment is expensive, and unless it can offer something important and valuable which contributes positively to a music education curriculum there seems to be no justification for spending either time or money on it.

Mechanical and repetitive tasks are ideally suited to computers. They might overhear but they won't run out of patience! There is a move towards using computers to teach some aspects of the traditional music curriculum: aural training including pitch discrimination, rhythm reading and writing,



(graded tests for the Associated Board series of examinations have been computerized), analysis, melody writing, aspects of harmony, even composition! There is much to question here, as the application of computers to music education is in its infancy and there has not been much time for evaluation. At present such programmes seem to be placing aspects of music in a completely unmusical context! What is less contentious is the fact that most computers have very rudimentary built-in sound chips. To exploit the resultant poor quality sound, often out of tune, for musical purposes is a contradiction in terms! However, there are currently available high-quality computer-synthesizers that lie within the budgets of most schools. The Yamaha CX5M is a fairly sophisticated computer-synthesizer which costs around £600. If you have access to a BBC computer, then the Music 500 system turns this into a computer-synthesizer for less than £200.

The new range of keyboards - Casio, Yamaha, etc. - are micro-processor based and, even though they don't look like it, are effectively computers, although they will only do a small number of things. They will usually play a different number of "instrumental" sounds and provide a variety of rhythm accompaniments; some also have an in-built memory so that what has just been played can be replayed, but beyond this there is little freedom for individual choice. The manufacturers decide on the sounds and rhythm patterns, and the whole concept seems to be based on superficial attraction. Making it easy to play chordal accompaniments to tunes with a rhythm may be "fun" for a few minutes, but then what?

During a recent early morning visit

to a primary school, a basic synthesizer was being introduced to a group of 10-year-old children. Their initial responses were reflected in comments such as "My keyboard at home plays drum rhythms" and "Will it sound like a violin?". Two hours later, having put together a short atmospheric piece for which they had explored and created their own timbres and sound sequences, there were no doubts in the minds of pupils or teachers about the potential of this new medium. The excitement generated from this very simple introduction had spread around the school by lunchtime. The creative arts programme in the school, already flourishing, will be given a new dimension in the future!

So the analogue synthesizer allows the user to decide how the keyboard will sound. It may sound like a star, or the sea; it may be bell-like at one end and completely different at the other; it may have a lot of reverberation at one end and none at the other, or the keyboard may timbrally change a sound progressively over its length or affect the spatial location of sound. The limitations lie more with the user than with the equipment. It allows as much freedom as is desired.

With many of the "new" keyboards we are back with the same problem as with the computer. Potentially computers and keyboards are immensely powerful and versatile instruments, but being stuck with an unsuitable programme could equally inhibit activity. Thus they will place constraints on musical thinking and experience rather than create greater opportunities for imaginative exploration and expression. The synthesizer offers wider potential for aesthetic experience for ALL pupils.

Contemporary music education has moved towards the development of group work, allowing pupils to explore and express through the medium of sound rather than symbol, not in predetermined ways or styles, but freely and individually. If applied in an appropriate way micro-electronics can enable anyone to make personal and unique valuable musical statements of a high quality in a variety of ways without a knowledge of "musical literacy". Nor does it demand the hundreds of hours of solitary practice needed to acquire a traditional instrumental technique. New technology can provide new avenues and challenges for the skilled instrumentalist whilst giving some musical freedom to those for whom traditional skills do not come easily. A particularly exciting development is in the area of children with special needs, where some quite remarkable results are being achieved through the use of electronic technology and music.

New technology can make an incredibly positive contribution to the experience of music across the curriculum. It is the way in which it is used, the context in which it is placed, which will result either in music education moving forward in exciting new directions, or in being put back by many years. The choice is ours.

Phil Ellis lectures at Huddersfield Polytechnic

Through the classroom window

Music in Practice, Edited by Paul Farmer
Oxford University Press £5.50. 0 19 321094 0

Teachers are often criticized for their preoccupation with lesson content. In view of the rapid turnover of classes, the inadequate provision for lesson preparation and the usual classroom isolation in which teachers work, it is not surprising that the main focus sometimes becomes "what can I teach today?" In *Music in Practice* Paul Farmer has recognized the need for an ideas resource book aimed at the often turbulent lower years of secondary school.

The book's eleven topics offer a comprehensive collection of ways into

music-making, based on the interests and expertise of the different contributors, all of whom are practising teachers. The topics, divided into several related themes for easy reference, cover suggestions for practical work in the classroom and are supplemented by bibliographies, lists of relevant resources, musical examples and in some cases, discographies.

Current approaches to teaching music such as improvisation and composition are covered in the book in Trevor Davies' "Music in an Inner City School", Grenville Hancock's "Practical Improvisation", Phil Ellis' "Water Music" and Joan Arnold's "Music and Integrated Arts Studies". Two topics, "Indian Music" and "Recording and Electronics in the Classroom", are particularly interesting. Leela Floyd

provides useful starting material for those wishing to introduce Indian music to the classroom, while Peter West outlines the imaginative concept of a sound resources centre.

Music in Practice is not always, as Farmer claims, "a source of new ideas" and his aim to avoid a "traditional" or "creative" bias is not achieved in all contributions. Brian Dennis' "rhythm grids" in "Ideas for Rhythm" are little more than conventional sight-reading exercises, while Tony Attwood treats pop music as a means of exploring theory and notation. In the end, *Music in Practice* offers an insight into a variety of music-making methods and is readable and informative. It is a window through which the classroom of other teachers can be observed.

Gillian Williams

In the last "Music Extra", Geoffrey Brace argued that school music was becoming "an almost exclusively female pursuit" in which boys were increasingly reluctant to participate. There is considerable foundation for this and for the further claim that the situation is complicated by the musical establishment's tendency to ignore it. However, an equally difficult and neglected problem is that of the wastage of musical talent which occurs when girls progress to adult life. Several studies have shown that, at school, girls tend to have more positive attitudes than boys to music; a better record for performance and listening; and a higher success rate at all examination levels in the subject. As adults, they continue to be the mainstay of amateur choirs and orchestras and easily outnumber men in the average concert audience. Yet, in virtually every branch of professional music-making, they play a very subordinate role.

Of the 1,763 instrumentalists listed in the current *British Music Yearbook*, only 30 per cent are women. Most of these are harpists, pianists, string and woodwind players but it is only in the harp section that they actually outnumber men. Elsewhere they have only a small representation. Similar patterns have emerged from other studies, suggesting that there are factors which not only limit women's general performance opportunities but which further restrict them to a few "appropriate" areas of activity.

Since instrumental performance is a major forcing ground for conductors and composers, it is hardly surprising that women should be a minority in their ranks too. No more than 9 of 155 orchestras included in the *British Music Yearbook* have female conductors and women account for only two of the freelance conductors and choral directors listed. As for composition, only four per cent of the works which received a first British concert or broadcast performance in 1983-84 were by women. Despite their small number, these embrace a considerable variety of styles and genres, ranging from fairly conventional chamber compositions such as Diana Burrell's "Sonata" and Erika Fox's "Kaleidoscope" to the larger scale "Symphony" by Minna Keal and "Parallax" for computer tape by Debbie Wiseman. To judge from these examples, lack of talent or versatility certainly does not account for women's low representation in this field.

The situation is no better in the world of church music. Of the 64 leading Anglican cathedral and collegiate churches in the UK, not one has a woman organist. Apart from a brief experiment by St Edmundsbury, Suffolk, our cathedral choirs continue to be exclusively male. Similarly, institutions such as King's College Cambridge and Magdalen College Oxford, which have admitted women undergraduates for over a decade, still have no female choristers.

Apart from opera, the only branch of music where women are consistently in evidence is that of teaching. But here again the situation is far from ideal. Although women form the majority of the country's music teachers, few become heads of department and even fewer progress beyond that. (They account for only nine per cent of I.C.S. music advisers, for example.) At tertiary level the imbalance is even greater, with all university departments and colleges of music being headed by men.

Given that such a situation is unsatisfactory, how might it be improved and what contribution could teachers make to the process? It would be naive to expect any one group to solve a problem which has a long history, a multiplicity of causes and which is as much a reflection of the status accorded to women in society in general as of specific factors at work within the music profession. However, there are certain strategies which might help.

First there is a need to improve girls' self-image with relation to music. One way of doing so would be to revise the teaching of music history in order to highlight women's contribution to the art. Thus pupils would be given the opportunity, for example, to become as familiar with the madrigals of Maddalena Casulana, the concertante operas of Raffaella Aleotti and the operas of Maria Agnesi as with male composers' works in those genres.

Teachers could spearhead such reforms through their own course planning and by exerting pressure on examination boards to revise syllabuses and reformulate assessment



Positive images

Aelwyn Pugh on women in music

criteria to reflect the new emphasis. At present, the teaching materials necessary to support such a move are virtually non-existent. Teachers could compensate for this, to a certain extent, by designing their own tapes, slides and videos and by editing and arranging their own performance editions. Collaborative ventures along these lines could lead to the establishment of pools of resources, to service several schools within a region. The identification of a potential market of this type might eventually encourage commercial companies to extend their provision in this area. On a wider scale, it could even spur record companies and concert agencies to pay more attention to the works of women composers. The numerous research initiatives necessary to service such developments would be a further important bonus.

The positive role models provided for girls need not be confined to the past nor to composition. Pupils should also be made aware of women's contribution to various aspects of the contemporary musical scene. For example, they should be as familiar with the work of Jane Clover, Cillian Weir and Astarik Ben Tovim as with that of Simon Rattle, Simon Preston and James Galway.

The responsibility for this should not rest entirely with the music staff of a school but should be shared by careers advisers. Together they need to ensure that girls are made aware of the full range of careers available within the music profession and see them all as potential openings for themselves. Unfortunately, the relevant literature currently available rarely supports this. For example, the MSC's pamphlet, "Choice of careers '101 Music'", reinforces many of the traditional

stereotypes. Women tend to be shown in various teaching roles and - apart from a photograph of the WRAC band - are seen playing traditional "feminine" instruments. Most tellingly, they are entirely absent from any illustrations of the musical technology, retailing, broadcasting and recording industries. One hopes that the careers information booklet presently being prepared by the Music Advisers' National Association will present a more balanced view. Failing this, a more radical publication might be necessary, along the lines of the literature produced by the Equal Opportunities Commission to support its "Women into Science and Engineering" campaign.

Obviously, it is not only this type of material which needs to be scrutinized for counter-productive messages but all literature relating to music. Individual teachers also need to examine their own assumptions critically and be highly sensitive to the "hidden curriculum" to which they contribute.

However, none of these initiatives will have much impact if women teachers continue to occupy subservient positions in their professions. Pressure must therefore be brought on appointing committees to redress the balance, through policies of positive discrimination.

The few strategies suggested here are unlikely to be easy to implement. But the effort must be made, otherwise women will never gain a fair representation in the professional musical world. Instead they will continue to be hampered and discouraged by the kind of bias which led one *Time* columnist to claim that: "Men compose symphonies; women compose babies".

Aelwyn Pugh teaches at Sunderland Polytechnic.

Beyond the dictionary

The Oxford Music Picture Word Book
by Sarah Williams
Oxford University Press £6.95. net 0 19 311329 5

A vast amount of information and inspiration is packed into 64 pages of what looks, at first glance, just like another dictionary for children. I would encourage teachers to look through the last three parts of this book before they put it in the "encyclopaedia" section of the library.

The first part is a collection of words pertaining to music in a very wide sense, each illustrated and described simply. Thereafter there are suggestions for music-making in unconventional ways, such as developing sound pictures and using language with sound

both of which are ideas that could provide the basis for practical group work. There are illustrations of music-making and dance around the world, including of groups, bands and instruments of every shape, size and derivation. These certainly aid recognition and identification. The composers listed are identified by nationality on a colour chart and map, by name and date, and by one particular piece or type of music which children are likely to have heard and enjoyed.

This book would surely encourage any child with the slightest interest in music to delve further into practical music-making and into the vast area of musical appreciation.

Wendy Reynolds



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But no one plays the piano...

Leonora Davies defines the role of the specialist in primary music

Yehudi Menuhin recently declared that "every school anywhere in the world should begin with singing and dancing." What a wonderful idea. If a "balanced" musical diet is to be achieved, however, the timetable must include other activities besides singing. It is vital that children also have access to instruments and the opportunity to create and recreate music through a variety of experiences. Most important of all, if we are concerned with the musical quality of their endeavours, pupils should be encouraged at all times to make musical judgements and assessments of their own.

A balanced diet of singing, dancing and instrumental activity? "An impossible dream", a "nice if you've got the specialist teacher" theory, I hear you say. I disagree with such defeatist attitudes, despite the economic climate and government guidelines on curriculum content. Yet how many of our Primary schools do have singing, dancing and instrumental work of the kind suggested as part of their normal curriculum, on offer to all their pupils? What is the state of play?

Let us first begin by stripping away the "shop window" musical events such as concerts and open day functions. These events, though often highly rated by head teachers, governors and parents, may not honestly reflect an on-going musical experience, partaken by 100 per cent of the pupils. Nor am I concerned here with any specialist instrumental input which heads may "buy" into their schools as an opportunity for some pupils.

Let us look briefly at four possible case studies.

School A has a visiting music specialist who comes into school every Wednesday and takes every class for half an hour of music. The class teacher is glad of the free time that this

affords her/him. There is no follow-up. School B is lucky enough to have a Music Post holder, but he/she is also a class teacher, and he/she is also released from class teaching on Thursday morning and Friday afternoon to take every class in the school for music. She/he takes lunch time recorder groups and carries the full responsibility for any "shop window" or other performance events. After all, she can play the piano. General class teacher involvement varies from person to person.

School C has an enthusiastic head who is lucky enough to have an equally enthusiastic, imaginative and hard-working team of teaching staff. They hold curriculum-planning staff meetings and try to effect a "balanced" curriculum. No-one would own to having any particular musical expertise or instrumental skill, but all pupils engage in a variety of musical activities, both teacher-directed and pupil-initiated.

School D has no music-making activities at all because there is no one who plays the piano. Do any of these hypothetical case studies describe situations which readers either partially or totally recognize? Even in schools where music activities do take place they are often isolated and divorced from the rest of the curriculum. Specialism would sometimes appear to work against a general music education.

What positive course of action can we take as a profession, to ensure that music-making is regarded as the norm rather than the exception for all primary school pupils? Unless we address ourselves urgently to this problem then curriculum music will take place in an even more sporadic and haphazard way than it does already. There are a course number of historical reasons and excuses for this state of affairs. We need to break into the "vicious circle" and attack the circle at every segment.

Many classroom teachers, perhaps because of their own ineffective music education, actively shun musical involvement with their classes due to a deep seated insecurity and lack of confidence. (Music Consultancy in Primary Schools, Dr A Kemp. SMA Bulletin)

We need to look carefully at the initial teacher training programme. Do all trainee teachers have some experience in music and the other arts subjects? Now are they helped to understand the learning and develop-

mental processes in young children which relate particularly to the arts? These are crucial questions to which all training establishments need to address themselves. We need to look afresh at ways of using and developing existing opportunities and expertise amongst our teachers. In my experience, all teachers, some with careful and gentle persuasion, are capable of providing activities for pupils which are fundamental to more advanced musical work. Sometimes class teachers are not aware of the potential of these activities and do not regard them as appropriate to music-making. It is vital that the natural enthusiasm, imagination and creative delight of our Primary pupils is acknowledged and facilitated in every area of the curriculum by the class teachers who best know the abilities, backgrounds and enthusiasms of their children. If music activities take place in this kind of environment then they will be perceived by children as "an integral aspect of everyday life".

However, we must also acknowledge that there is a sticking point beyond which even the most gifted non-specialist cannot guide her/his pupils. Certain areas of music-making necessitate musical skills and a musical awareness on the part of the facilitator. In order to help children develop a musical awareness and a capacity to make musical judgements and assessments, teachers must themselves have musical ability. Those who are fortunate enough to have had a more specialist form of music education must influence and inspire colleagues. The role of specialists in a school or within a group of schools must now be regarded as one of "consultancy", of sharing and guiding rather than being possessive and precious about their subject. Together, the willing, enthusiastic class teacher and the specialist as "consultant" might be able to bridge a crucial sticking point.

During the last four years the Music Education Centre at the University of Reading has organized a course, which aims to do just this. The course has now been extended to four full weeks spread out through the Spring and Summer Terms. There are places for 40 applicants, and since competition for places is fierce, one of the undertakings stipulated by the course director Dr Anthony Kemp is that head teachers must make a commitment both during the course and subsequently to operate a "consultancy"

Wake up at the top!

Michael Garrick states the case for jazz

Imagine a three-day international conference on jazz education sponsored by the Government in a comfortable provincial hotel to which some 50 delegates from the world of jazz "pedagogy" - academics and practitioners alike - are invited. I need scarcely say we're not in England, nor need I mention that there is a strong force of articulate and at times aggressively confident Americans present.

We are in France, Mulhouse, Alsace, September 1984, and the rooms and cuisine are first class. Simultaneous translations into French and English: in short, everything to help make things a success.

My contribution is "L'usage des ragas dans l'enseignement du jazz" with practical illustrations from Jazz Ragas published by the Midland Centre for Music in Schools, price £1.50p. I am exceptionally impressed, as is usually the case when music educators meet, with the fact that at least a third of those present find themselves hard put to it to count accurately four bars in 4/4 time without external aid.

The conference - the first of its kind - represents a determined attempt to get jazz education properly founded - and funded - in la belle France. No leathery old warhorse goes unexercised. Out they trot: racism; academicism, the kiss of death; the pursuit of liberty, and so on. Noticeable by its absence is any necessity to lobby for the valediction of jazz as music or art form (the word "jazz" failed even to appear in the Gulbenkian Report; obvious, really; it's not music, is it?) or anything so puerile as the merits of "Trad" versus "Modern". All that nursery squabbling still nurtured in some places here is irrelevant; instead, a foregone conclusion that jazz is a most significant development in 20th-century music and that it is the education authorities' duty to see it does not go neglected.

Doesn't it make you feel puny sometimes, being British? Relying on a hard-pressed Arts Council for carefully budgeted and closely monitored jazz education initiatives when the proper sort of largesse and imagination must surely be the Department of Education and Science?

Among the handful of jazz courses available in the UK this summer, one stands out in two respects: first, its responsiveness and second (judging from last year's turnout) its probable capacity to attract the attention of Americans with their act well together. And what British jazz educators are visiting the US in fair exchange? Nobody asks or seems to care, though the high standards of the Brits are never in question - in fact the Americans are forever congratulating us on our jazz accomplishments.

But we are easy-going: jazz is fun for us, a relaxation, a release for the cramped spirit. And our teaching reflects this attitude. The American stance is by contrast arrestingly authoritarian and, it could be argued, in certain ways more efficient. Drill

Scales. Licks. One, two, one two three four Play! Think. Learn. Drill again. The striking thing about them is the way they drive themselves and their students as if there were no tomorrow. There are fewer smiles than on British courses, let alone laughs. Good or bad? I can't help feeling a little levity makes all learning a lighter burden. The irony is that music is generally being demoted in the curriculum (except, of course, in the specialist schools) - and why? Face the reality - traditional music teaching is still years behind the times and simply not equipped to inspire the way it should.

This is very different from my own experience and also that of others who deal with jazz. In the 20 years that I have been visiting schools under its noble banner I have time and again been privileged to witness jazz offering a live and engrossing challenge to pupils' inner capabilities. It is not just playing around with overpriced electronic toys and showing together a few rock rhythms, though that is all too often the way modern music teaching is pitifully tackled.

Apart from our corporate experience over a considerable period, the success of the Arts Council's three-year Jazz in Education pilot projects must show clearly enough that the DES needs to grab a heaven sent opportunity by both staves and appoint then back up nationwide jazz educators/advisers who are also professional jazz musicians on a similar basis to the Inspectorate: just as independent, just as responsible and just as properly salaried. Then, is it hoping for too much to look forward to something quite marvellous invigorating our daily round and increasingly threatened common task? By all means let's have a nice cosy conference first, but to borrow an immortal phrase, let's get on with it!

Jazz is under-estimated if it remains within the confines of the music department. It is ideal fodder for curriculum development. Its flexible nature suits it to work with dance, drama, creative writing, art and activity studies. Much as we love those early Americans who fashioned, quite unconsciously, this cultural bombshell, can't we have the support to enable us to give them at least as good as they gave us? Or do we want more dynamic American teachers working comfortably here because we cannot match them with our own?

The best jazz musicians display a flexible balance between egotism and selflessness. I used to think, in a naive way, that this balance was the kind of thing we were put on the planet to try and discover. Wasn't it Gautama Buddha whose dying exhortation was "Work out your own salvation with diligence" and the Son of Man who reportedly proclaimed "Behold I make all things new"?

Someone who truly appreciates the principles of jazz will recognize the force of these insights. Er, wake up at the top there, will you?

But no one

within their school. During the period of the course there are meetings organized for the head teachers of participating schools, to enable them to discuss with the course tutors ways in which the specialist consultants might be used to best advantage. These meetings also cover other important managerial aspects which may affect teacher liaison within schools.

Although the course offers participants an opportunity to extend their own knowledge and experience, it is vitally important that the specialists perceive the content in terms of the needs of the classroom teachers and their pupils. This approach helps specialists to examine the essential elements of a music curriculum and to consider a package of principles and the underlying rationale as well as material and resources. They must examine their own teaching in respect of communication skills both with their colleagues and the pupils. The nature of this kind of communication requires sensitivity, insight, diplomacy, imagination and musical skill on the part of the consultant.

Encouraging specialists to teach music not only from their own point of

view but through that of their non-specialist colleagues often bring about quite a shift in attitudes. A music curriculum or curriculum guidelines based on the abilities and enthusiasms of the specialist consultant will not be appropriate in these circumstances. The consultants should develop a set of personal guidelines into which a whole variety of approaches, activities and materials will fit.

The principle of consultancy does not need to be confined to one school. Given the present economic climate it could be quite conceivable that two or three working together might share the resources of a specialist consultant. The schools might join together for a performance and even expand their music-making into the community. In this way we could demonstrate to children and their parents that music is not an extra, for special kinds of people, but an inherent part of everyday life and something to be enjoyed by everybody.

Leonora Davies is an IEA music co-ordinator. The views expressed here are her own and are not necessarily those of the education authority for whom she works.

EXTRA

Information and practice

Aural Analysis. By Cella Duffy and Roger Parker

Oxford University Press Question Book £1.95, 0 19 321550 0. Answer Book and Cassette. £6.95, 0 19 321551 9.

Opera. By Nicholas John
Oxford University Press £2.75, 0 19 321335 4.

The Guller. By Millicent Isherwood
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Keyboard Instruments. By Roy Bennett
Cambridge Educational £1.50, 0 521 27653 5. Cassette £8.50 + VAT.

1986 is the first year of the new Advanced Common Core Inter-Board Test of Aural Perception. This replaces the different aural tests which have previously been set by the Examination Boards. The new test, which is divided into two sections, is demanding but more interesting and musical than the tests it supersedes. The first part tests rhythm, pitch (both diatonic and non-diatonic), two-part and four-part dictation together with aural discrimination. The second explores aural analysis through comparisons, compositional detail and stylistic analysis.

Aural Analysis is an attempt to produce a textbook which will help teachers who, because of limited time, finance and resources, may perhaps find it difficult to gather together sufficient material to provide their pupils with a logical and progressive course for at least part of the new examination. The aim is to encourage students to listen to music in as many different ways as possible, and to avoid the division between pure aural work, analysis and history. In my experience the average pupil has always found it difficult to link aural work with, say, harmony and anything which enables this link to be made can only be welcomed. In this book succeeds admirably.

The extracts have been carefully graded and can be divided into three sections. The first nine examples include a great deal of technical vocabulary which will help with later work. Among the terms used are "sequence", "imitation", "inversion" and "homophony". The musical examples range from a Bach Invention to part of Britten's *Spring Symphony* via the slow movement of Beethoven's "Archduke" to Fauré's Requiem and a section from a piece from Volume 4 of *Mikrokosmos*. Elementary form is also illustrated in this section. Excerpts 10-19 explore a wider variety of forms and styles in addition to extending the understanding of terms mentioned in the first section. Again the music is varied in style and texture: Josquin Desprez to Prokofiev.

continued

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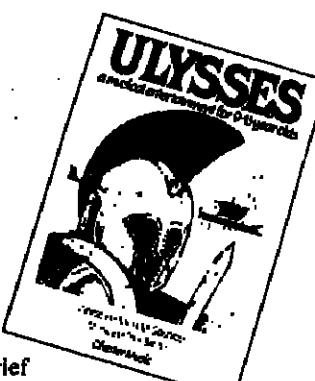
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AVON COUNTY
THE WEST WINDON YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE
 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

BRADFORD
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WORKER
 Required for the new Lakeland Centre which is situated in the Bradford area. The Centre is a joint purpose built Y & C Centre/Library and will present an exciting range of educational and recreational opportunities to young people in the local community. We are looking for a qualified Youth and Community Worker, Teacher or holder of a degree of a Social Science subject with a minimum of 3 years experience in the field of youth work. Salary and conditions of service are in accordance with the JNC Report for Youth Workers and Community Centres. Further details and application form from: Timothy Hill (MAYC/85) MAYC Training Centre, Keaton Park, Bath, BA1 9AE. Tel: Bath (0225) 21406, (12609) 440000

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
YOUTH WORKER
 ELMENTHRY, Aylesbury, Bucks. (1-5) £7,866-£8,844 p.a.
 Applications are invited for this interesting and challenging position at the Elmenthry Youth Centre. The successful candidate will be responsible for the provision of youth work and community service to young people in the local community. The post is a full-time position and the successful candidate will be required to work on a rota basis. Further details and application form from: Timothy Hill (MAYC/85) MAYC Training Centre, Keaton Park, Bath, BA1 9AE. Tel: Bath (0225) 21406, (12609) 440000

DERBYSHIRE
COUNCIL
DERBY AND SOUTH DERBYSHIRE EDUCATION
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
MILL STREET ACTIVITY CENTRE
ASSISTANT YOUTH WORKER
 Derby, Derbyshire. (1-5) £7,866-£8,844 p.a.
 Applications are invited for this interesting and challenging position at the Mill Street Activity Centre. The successful candidate will be responsible for the provision of youth work and community service to young people in the local community. The post is a full-time position and the successful candidate will be required to work on a rota basis. Further details and application form from: Timothy Hill (MAYC/85) MAYC Training Centre, Keaton Park, Bath, BA1 9AE. Tel: Bath (0225) 21406, (12609) 440000

LEEDS
CITY COUNCIL
CONTINUING EDUCATION - AREA 3
YOUTH WORKER IN THE CENTRE
 Required immediately applications for the post of Youth Worker in the City Centre. The successful candidate will be responsible for the provision of youth work and community service to young people in the local community. The post is a full-time position and the successful candidate will be required to work on a rota basis. Further details and application form from: Timothy Hill (MAYC/85) MAYC Training Centre, Keaton Park, Bath, BA1 9AE. Tel: Bath (0225) 21406, (12609) 440000

ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE
TEACHER
 SLOUGH CHILDREN'S CENTRE
 £9,030-£12,144 (inc.)
 Teachers are required at the short-stay unit for 12 boys and girls aged 14-17 who are usually referred for a period of residential assessment. The successful applicant will join the Senior Teacher to provide appropriate education for 47 weeks each year to pupils who experience learning and/or behavioural difficulties. He/she will demonstrate a broad range of skills which will include such areas as remedial teaching, art and craft, and a knowledge of elementary computing. A positive interest in sport, outdoor activities and domestic science would be advantageous to applicants. A further 15 hours allowance is required each week. A Consultant Educational Psychologist provides professional support and maintains links with the Department of Education. Please phone Mr J. Macdonald, Principal or Mr J. Frank, Senior Teacher for an informal discussion on Slough 34384. Application forms and further details available from Personnel Department, Slough Social Services Department, Highfield, Lodge Road, Slough, Tel: Slough 31201, Ext. 207. Closing date 22nd July. An Equal Opportunity Employer

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HUMBERSIDE
HUMBERSIDE YOUTH ASSOCIATION (N.A.C.)
 Required from 1st October 1985. The successful candidate will be responsible for the provision of youth work and community service to young people in the local community. The post is a full-time position and the successful candidate will be required to work on a rota basis. Further details and application form from: Timothy Hill (MAYC/85) MAYC Training Centre, Keaton Park, Bath, BA1 9AE. Tel: Bath (0225) 21406, (12609) 440000

LONDON
Inner London Education Authority
YOUTH WORKER
 Required to assist Senior Worker, provide experience of working with young people in a multicultural environment. Salary and conditions of service are in accordance with the JNC Report for Youth Workers and Community Centres. Further details and application form from: Timothy Hill (MAYC/85) MAYC Training Centre, Keaton Park, Bath, BA1 9AE. Tel: Bath (0225) 21406, (12609) 440000

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OXFORDSHIRE
HANBURY
 Required for a detached Youth Worker. Salary and conditions of service are in accordance with the JNC Report for Youth Workers and Community Centres. Further details and application form from: Timothy Hill (MAYC/85) MAYC Training Centre, Keaton Park, Bath, BA1 9AE. Tel: Bath (0225) 21406, (12609) 440000

SHROPSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
YOUTH WORKER
 Required for the provision of youth work and community service to young people in the local community. The post is a full-time position and the successful candidate will be required to work on a rota basis. Further details and application form from: Timothy Hill (MAYC/85) MAYC Training Centre, Keaton Park, Bath, BA1 9AE. Tel: Bath (0225) 21406, (12609) 440000

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day
 A vacancy exists for a **TEAM LEADER** to work with the **LONDON DISTRICTS REGION YOUTH OFFICER TEAM** in the Methodist Church in London and the Home Counties.

We are looking for a creative person with Christian commitment and proven leadership and administrative ability. Training in youth work or work with children, and experience in work with adults are essential.

Salary: Soubury Scale for Youth and Community Service Officers, Main Range, Points 4 to 8.
 Details: Mr David M. Dalziel, M.D.E.Y., 2 Chester House, Pages Lane, Muswell Hill, London N10 1PR.
 Closing date: 15th July 1985. Interviews 30th July 1985.

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
DETACHED YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WORKER (ETHNIC MINORITIES)
 2 POSTS JNC Range 3pts. 1-5 £7,866/£8,844 per annum

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the post of Detached Youth and Community Worker (Ethnic Minorities). The successful candidates will work in areas of the Borough which have large Asian communities and should therefore be conversant with all aspects of racial disadvantage. Applicants should also have strong organising ability, the expertise to be involved in the community and should be able to identify needs and devise strategies to encourage self help and greater awareness of resources available. Previous applicants will remain under consideration and need not re-apply. Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Officer, Town Hall, Bolton BL1 1RU (Tel: 2231, Extn. 587 and 6105) to be returned by 15th July. Trade Union Membership is a condition of service. An Equal Opportunity Employer

DERBYSHIRE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
Youth and Community Worker
 A full-time Youth and Community Worker is required to work in the south of the N.E. District of Derbyshire, based at Clay Cross Youth Club. The worker will initiate and develop provision for unemployed young people and, in line with the County's policy, introduce work which addresses such issues as racism, sexism and political education. The worker will pay particular attention to the needs of the small rural communities in the south of the District. Salary: JNC Range 1/5 (currently £7,866-£8,844). For informal discussion about this post, please contact: Marion Monaghan, D.Y.C.E.O. on Chesterfield 204851 or Gordon Savage, Team Leader on Chesterfield 33531. Further details and application forms are available from: Area Education Office, Youth and Community Service, Newbold Road, Chesterfield. (Tel: Chesterfield 204851). Closing date for applications: 20 July 1985.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.
DERBYSHIRE
County Council

YOUTH WORKER (Full-Time)
 Salary: JNC 3 (1-5) £7866 - £8844 Ref no: CML/1436/85

Experienced Youth Worker required from 1st September 1985 to be seconded to St Andrew's Methodist Youth Centre, Elm Park, Bristol. For informal discussion telephone Rev Geoff Lear, on Bristol 692036.

Further details and application form, returnable immediately, from Director of Personnel (Tel: Bristol 298568 - Answer on 2nd number after office hours), P.O. Box 270, Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol, BS99 7RE.

Avon is an equal opportunities employer. Please quote reference number. Community Leisure Department

Avon
COUNTY COUNCIL

YOUTH & COMMUNITY

TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Employees of Greater Council of and the Metropolitan County Councils will be welcome.

Full Time Trainer Youth Worker
 Required for September 1985 for up to two years. Salary: J.N.C. Scale 1/5 (currently £7,866-£8,844 p.a.). This post offers opportunities for experienced workers to undertake training in full time Youth Work.

SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL YOUTH SERVICE
Senior Youth Worker
 Vacancy for experienced person to develop work on 3 fronts in Wellington area.

1. Advice and support to Voluntary Groups.
 2. Development of new opportunities.
 3. Direct work with young people.

Person appointed will work in a District Team covering North Wrekin District of Shropshire. INSTEP approved Staff Development Policy. Salary: Soubury Main Scale pts. 1-5 £10,455 - £11,748. Further details, job description and application form from County Education Officer, Shirehall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Telephone 0743 222515.

Somerset County Council
SOMERSET EDUCATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
ROME AND DISTRICT YOUTH CENTRE
YOUTH LEADER

required as soon as possible. The successful applicant will be responsible for a wide range of activities at this busy centre. As part of Somerset's Community Education Service the centre caters for young people, community groups and adult users, and the busy weekly programme reflects this wide community usage.

Applications for this post, funded initially until 31st March 1987, should be qualified under the terms of the JNC Report for youth workers and community centre wardens, and have previous youth work experience. It is possible that this post may be held for a longer period or even become permanent. Salary scale: JNC 3 (1-5) £7,866-£8,844 p.a. Starting salary subject to age and experience.

Application form and further details from the Chief Education Officer, Staffing (NT) Section, Education Department, County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY. (S.A.E. please). Closing date: 19th July 1985.

ETHNIC MINORITIES/COMMUNITY CAREERS PROJECT
 The project has recently completed its pilot phase, and is now to be expanded under Section 11 of the Local Government Act 1985. Its aim is to work with minority ethnic groups in Shropshire on issues relating to equal opportunities in education, training and employment. Some of the issues identified as needing urgent attention include the development of multi-racial careers education programmes; work with women from minority groups; work with local employers; and work within the careers service itself to develop a more multi-racial and anti-racist service.

OUTREACH WORKER
 Sc4/6/6 £6555-£7329/£7524-£8262/£8532-£9114 (according to age and experience)

Required to develop and maintain contacts with the young unemployed from minority groups who are not in regular contact with the Careers Service, and to improve the flow of information on jobs and courses into and out of the Project. Should have the ability to relate to young people in informal settings and must be prepared to work irregular hours. Formal qualifications are not as important as commitment to this area of work. Must be committed to the eradication of racial disadvantage and must have a thorough knowledge of Afro-Caribbean and Asian Communities. Applications from women and men from minority ethnic groups will be especially welcomed. For further information if required telephone Zahid Hamid or Janet Angel on 735494.

Application forms and further details available from the CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER (REF ST/14), LEOPOLD STREET, SHEFFIELD S1 1RA. CLOSING DATE 19TH JULY.

City of Sheffield
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

WEST GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL
Full Time Youth Worker (Qualified)
 Association (N.A.C.) Required from 1st October 1985. The successful candidate will be responsible for the provision of youth work and community service to young people in the local community. The post is a full-time position and the successful candidate will be required to work on a rota basis. Further details and application form from: Timothy Hill (MAYC/85) MAYC Training Centre, Keaton Park, Bath, BA1 9AE. Tel: Bath (0225) 21406, (12609) 440000

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
FRIARY YOUTH CENTRE
 Applications are invited from qualified and experienced Youth and Community Workers or teachers for the post of Youth Worker at the Friary Youth Centre, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. Salary: J.N.C. Scale 1/5 (currently £7,866-£8,844 p.a.). Further details and application form from: Timothy Hill (MAYC/85) MAYC Training Centre, Keaton Park, Bath, BA1 9AE. Tel: Bath (0225) 21406, (12609) 440000

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STS SCHOOL TRAVEL ADVISERS

School Travel Service require a number of regional Travel Advisers to visit schools in term-time and promote our wide range of school tours abroad. Advisers will work from home; own car and telephone are essential. Occasional training visits abroad may be necessary. Payment will be on a fee basis plus commission and expenses.

Applicants should be energetic, articulate and able to work independently. Professional school and/or travel experience an advantage.

Write, enclosing a full CV, to:
Mark Sanders, Marketing Director, School Travel Service Ltd.,
24 Culloden Road, Enfield, Middx. EN2 8DD.

SCHOOL TRAVEL SERVICE

MACMILLAN

COMMISSIONING EDITOR

We are looking for a Commissioning Editor in ELT to join a productive and profitable division, to have responsibility for local publishing in a specific region, and to make a contribution to our international list.

Applicants should have French as their first or second language, as well as experience in commissioning profitable English courses and supplementaries.

This opportunity is a senior post based in Basingstoke (45 minutes from Waterloo) and involves overseas travel.

Please apply with full c.v. to:

Sheilagh Brown

Personnel Manager

Macmillan Publishers Ltd

Houndmills

Basingstoke

Hants RG21 2XS

Applications close on 19th July 1985.

THE ASSOCIATED EXAMINING BOARD

Our School Examinations Board is now accepting applications for visiting examiners. Examiners are invited to examine in a variety of subjects, including English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Art, Music, and Physical Education. The Board is also responsible for the examination of candidates for the International Certificate of Education (ICE) and the International Baccalaureate (IB).

Applicants should have a degree or equivalent qualification in the subject to be examined, and a minimum of four years' experience in examining. The Board is also responsible for the examination of candidates for the International Certificate of Education (ICE) and the International Baccalaureate (IB).

Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, The Associated Examining Board, 100 Victoria Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS. Tel: 0703 655555. Fax: 0703 655556.

Applications should be returned to the Secretary by 19th July 1985.

THE ASSOCIATED EXAMINING BOARD

The Board invites applications for the post of Secretary. The Secretary is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Board, including the examination of candidates for the International Certificate of Education (ICE) and the International Baccalaureate (IB).

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LEARNING THROUGH ACTION

THEATRE IN EDUCATION

A 52 week Community Programme Project for unemployed Teacher/Actors.

Commencing in September 1985, we have the following vacancies:

Learning through Action

Teacher Actors

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It is essential that candidates have the ability to communicate with children through drama and are committed to participatory learning programmes.

Qualifications in teaching and experience in drama preferred. As these posts are funded by the Manpower Services Commission you must have been unemployed for some time and be in personal or indirect receipt of an appropriate benefit.

Write for an application form to: Chief Executive, Berkshire County Council, Shire Hall, Shinfield Park, Reading, RG2 9BQ or contact us on JOBLENE - Reading 861122.

Closing date: FRIDAY 19TH JULY 1985.

Salary range from £6,400 - £7,530 (£1,000 London allowance additional).

Applications with curriculum vitae to or more information from: Cheryl Andrews, 48 Brynston Square, London SW11 1NN. 01-723 650006.

Closing date: FRIDAY 19TH JULY 1985.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Royal County of Berkshire

CHURCH OF MUSIC

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Closing date: FRIDAY 19TH JULY 1985.

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TEACHING

1. Fixed pay scales

2. Diminishing challenge

3. Variable hours - fixed income

4. Time based career progression

CONSULTANCY

1. Higher basic salaries plus executive car, expenses, medical insurance, pension

2. Competitive Environment - Personal development

3. Variable income (performance related) - fixed hours

4. Ability based career progression

We are a young, expanding and progressive Management Consultancy based in Amersham, Bucks. Our work begins with selling our services at director level - our product ends in development of key personnel.

Write or telephone letting us know why we should be interested in each other. David Hodge, Resource Maximisation Ltd, Stancroft House, 18 Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks. HP8 5BP. Tel: (02403) 288512.

(10408)

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LONDON & LEEDS

CHALLENGE OF INDUSTRY

CONFERENCE ORGANISER

The Industrial Society hosts events in schools which bring in practical managers and trade unionists to increase the understanding of the role of industry and commerce in the country and to build closer links between schools and industry.

The organiser's work involves all aspects of conference organisation, telephone and personal contact with schools and companies. Applicants should be self-motivated, have a minimum of 10 years' experience in a driving licence.

Vacancies exist in London and Leeds.

Salary range from £6,400 - £7,530 (£1,000 London allowance additional).

Applications with curriculum vitae to or more information from: Cheryl Andrews, 48 Brynston Square, London SW11 1NN. 01-723 650006.

Closing date: FRIDAY 19TH JULY 1985.

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Two opportunities are available for experienced and enthusiastic people to join our expanding company in the residential education sector.

1. **COURSE DIRECTOR** - A Senior Post carrying full responsibility for Staff Training, Development, and the overall running of the school. The Director will be required to develop long term educational plans, to co-ordinate with the curriculum, to develop the school's reputation, to review the current situation and to reflect the needs of all stakeholders in a multi-cultural society is essential. Scale 1 or 2 according to experience.

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Salisbury

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ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

APPOINTMENTS WANTED

SPANISH NATIVE SPEAKER with teaching qualification seeks teaching job in English schools. Tel: 01-445 5451, (40053) 600000.

SPANISH TEACHER, 21 yrs old, native speaker, seeks teaching job in English schools. Tel: 01-445 5451, (40053) 600000.

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DIARY



Princess Diana: the world's most famous former nursery teacher

A request to Princess Michael of Kent. Could we possibly have the rugs back, as the wall are looking bare?

To explain, I attended last weekend the 20th anniversary celebrations of my Alma Mater, the University of Kent. I was a little nonplussed to see that the two beautiful, exotic rugs which had hung on the walls of the university's Rutherford College, with its splendid views over Canterbury, were gone.

When I inquired why, I was informed that the rugs were put in the university by its former chancellor, the late Princess Marina. Apparently, after her son, Prince Michael, married, his bride spotted the rugs and decided she would have them back.

On the subject of royalty - one not often aired in this newspaper - the world's most famous former nursery teacher renewed her acquaintance with education last week. Princess Diana hosted for the first time the annual royal garden party for Commonwealth, American and European

The royal carpet bagger

exchange teachers, which the Queen Mother or Princess Margaret has traditionally attended.

I was among the 500 guests who discovered that in an English summer garden party does not necessarily take place in a garden. This one was transferred indoors because of the pouring skies.

To return to the University of Kent, which is possibly more than those rugs will ever do. This Tuesday was a long-awaited day in the university's history with the planned launch of the European Space Agency's rocket to intercept Halley's Comet and send

Princess Michael took mother-in-law's rugs

Defying definition

If any proof were needed that assessment is the growth industry of the decade, it could be found at Oxford last weekend, when around 100 members of the International Association for Educational Assessment gathered enthusiastically to indulge their preoccupation with outcomes.

As might have been expected, with papers covering everything from achievement tests, national standards, scholastic aptitude tests and pupil profiles to content-related interpretations and criteria-related grades, there were almost as many interpretations of assessment available as there were nationalities present.

The last word, however, came entirely suitably from Dr Robert Burchfield, editor of *The Oxford English Dictionary*. Wheeled in at the last moment as an after-dinner speaker to replace a whiffed-in ME, he naturally turned first to his own baby for a definition and then reported, authoritatively that assessment didn't exist.

He had immediately launched a full-scale investigation and plugged into all his data banks. Continuous assessment, it seemed, had been born at just about the time in 1968 when he was editing the *As*.

Henry bows out of Barbican role

Henry Pluckrose, possibly the country's best-known primary headteacher and a pioneer of child-centred education, is leaving his school, Prior Weston, in London's Barbican. The school is one of the ILEA's great showpieces and is frequently toured by parties of foreign visitors.

Unfortunately, the way his departure has been handled has led to considerable disquiet among the school's parents, who include such luminaries as Dr David Owen, Islington Council leader Margaret Hodge and Louis Blom-Cooper, QC.

Mr Pluckrose has been seconded for the past year to Avery Hill College of Education and he has just written to parents at his school saying he has been offered an extension of the secondment and is unlikely to return as head. Some of the parents feel that the ILEA should have been more forthcoming that they would be with-out a head for another year. (This year's acting head has already announced her intention to leave). They and the staff first learned about Mr Pluckrose's departure when a letter



Henry Pluckrose from the ILEA simply addressed to "The Headmaster" arrived at the school recently confirming the Avery Hill appointment.

The PTA has insisted that the ILEA divisional office has a meeting with them to explain what is going on.

An ILEA spokesman said that a difficulty has arisen because the acting head had got a job outside London and his appointment came fairly late. Arrangements have now been made for another acting head to take charge. He added that a letter was going out to parents on Tuesday inviting them to a meeting today.

Dusty reply to Paul

It's good to know you can still be told off by your form teacher - even if you did leave school 25 years ago and are now earning about £20m a year.

The ex-pupil in question is Paul McCartney who recently argued with striking teachers at his son's East Sussex school and tore up their leaflets.

This has proved too much for the man who made Paul McCartney a teacher at the Liverpool Institute when he was 13, and he reminded the ex-Beatle this week how he himself nearly gave up the bass guitar for teaching after winning a place at training college.

Alan "Dusty" Durband, Paul's former English teacher, now 58 and retired, said this week he was far from impressed with his old school

favourite, adding: "It is sad and unfortunate that a man as rich as Paul should criticize teachers who have had their salaries eroded so much. He has no idea what it is like to grub along on £30 a week after stoppages."

"I know what the present situation is because I keep in touch with teachers and especially the younger members of the profession."

Mr Durband recalled that he made Paul his class head boy because he was extremely likeable and modest. He was reliable and the other boys respected him.

In his final year, Paul came to Mr Durband and said he had a place at a teacher training college. But the problem was he had been offered £20 a week to play the guitar in Hamburg. "I asked him whether he thought he was a Tommy Steele. And he said 'No'. As any responsible teacher would, I advised him to get his qualifications first, then become an entertainer. Fortunately, he disregarded my advice."

Not bad for a woman...

The difficulties that women have in getting management posts in education (see page 12) have obviously been taken on board by the public relations firm of F H Radford, who have issued a press release to announce the appointment of a woman, Miss Vera Lysenczuk, to head a new management

studies department at Davies' College in London. Unfortunately, though, old habits die hard. The first line of the press release describes Miss Lysenczuk as an "attractive Yorkshire-born teacher."

David Lister

pay talks

by Richard Garner

Leaders of the Secondary Heads Association are calling for separate pay regulations for heads and their deputies.

The shift in policy - signalled to Sir Keith Joseph - is a result of the Government's determination to press for a new contract for the profession.

Until now, the National Association of Head Teachers has been alone in pressing for separate negotiations. According to the SHA, Sir Keith appeared "very interested" in establishing a separate negotiating forum in any review of the Burnham committee.

Mr Peter Sarge, general secretary of the SHA, said: "We have been a bit ambivalent on the subject but if we're coming up to a new contract for teachers - it is quite clear that contract wouldn't apply to heads."

"It would be totally inappropriate, for instance, for heads to accept a measure of classroom cover and have defined hours and holidays. I've never heard of a secondary head who takes all the school holidays."

A "historic compromise" between the two TUC-affiliated unions will be sought if - as predicted - the National

As pay talks and school in crisis - page 7

Union of Teachers loses its overall majority on the teachers' panel of the Burnham committee as a result of Sir Keith's membership review.

The National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers will approach the NUT to see if the two can hammer out a pact for the running of teachers' panel meetings.

However, some observers believe the NUT may seek an accord with the Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association which - in the past - has often supported the NUT line in panel decisions.

Fresh talks on this year's pay claim resumed yesterday despite failure to agree a joint statement between teachers and local authorities over pay on Monday.

The differences at Monday's meetings were over attempts by the teachers' side to commit the local authorities to agree to include in this year's settlement a significant element for the recovery of the pay decline identified in the pay data working party report.

The local authorities felt they could not include this in the statement - although Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said 54 of the 104 L.A.s in England and Wales had already signed a NUT statement along these lines.

Local authority leaders deny that all the 54 statements include this clause. Both sides shared much "common ground", despite the "wide" gap between them.

The inspectors surveyed work in 49 schools, chosen from 25 local author-

ities to cover a range of sizes and catchment areas. The report is based on visits made four years ago.

The report says that broadening and improving work with older children makes "heavy demands on staffing" in schools where pupil-teacher ratios are less favourable than in 9 to 14 middle schools, let alone secondaries.

Three factors were associated with higher standards in the survey schools: strong heads, good relationships across the curriculum, and good resources. Often the three were interlinked.

Fifteen schools achieved "satisfactory or better" standards over two-thirds of the curriculum. A further nine were satisfactory over at least half the curriculum.

Twelve schools - a quarter of the sample - had "less than satisfactory standards for much of their work", and six of these had "a very high proportion" of unsatisfactory work.

Overall, the content and pace of work was directed at average children. Able children were often not challenged, and demands on the less able were misjudged.

The inspectors say that the range of work offered varied too much in different schools. Often lack of breadth was the result of inadequate curriculum planning. The most neglected subjects were religious education, craft, design and technology, home studies, and geography.

They suggest much more comprehensive schemes of work, dealing with the range of achievement to be expected, the materials and methods to be used, and the ways in which chil-

dren's progress and understanding should be assessed, for all curriculum areas.

Schools should plan to develop a range of skills and capabilities across the curriculum. Children needed more chances to take initiative, pose questions, experiment, design structures, and undertake inquiries.

On average the schools spent 25 per cent of the week on English, and a further 20 per cent on mathematics. That left an average 10 per cent for environmental and social studies, for physical education, and for arts and crafts, and more like 5 per cent for science, for craft design and technology, for home studies and needlecraft, and for music.

Spending more time on English and maths did not improve standards in those subjects, and, the inspectors suggest that schools might do better to approach a lot of English and some mathematics, through work in other curriculum areas. They call for a combination of class and specialist teaching at the top end of the school. The report also urgently calls for teachers with special responsibilities for year groups or curriculum areas to be given more time for these tasks.

More teachers with mathematics or science background were needed, as well as in-service training.

The overall level of resources was judged "generally adequate" in two-thirds of the schools.

Education 8-12 in combined and middle schools, HMSO £4.20.

HMI raises doubts over middle schools

by Virginia Makins and David Lister

Supporters of middle schools face a new hurdle this week in defending the system against authorities keen to dismantle it for financial reasons. The latest obstacle is an HMI report which casts doubt on standards in 8 to 12 schools.

The report says that only half the schools surveyed achieved "satisfactory or better standards" over at least half of the curriculum.

Eighteen months ago the Inspectorate's report on 9 to 13 schools said that fewer than half were reaching generally satisfactory standards.

Middle schools were in many cases set up for economic reasons when the school leaving age was raised, and are now being dismantled in some areas as secondary rolls fall - Brighton and Hull for example - and more pupils are needed in secondary schools to make them viable. At least one other authority has had doubts about retaining its middle schools.

Professor Alan Blyth, professor of education at Liverpool University, who has long been associated with the middle schools research group, said this week that he was not at all disheartened by the report.

"Exactly the same would have been said if there had been a survey of junior or lower secondary schools," he said, "but DES policy has been to exclude these. The very favourable comments about the social atmosphere in these schools tends to be disregarded, while what is said about attainment tends to be exaggerated."

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ities to cover a range of sizes and catchment areas. The report is based on visits made four years ago.

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Punishment Bill lies in tatters

by Biddy Passmore

Education ministers were desperately considering this week what to do with their corporal punishment Bill after a narrow defeat in the Lords.

Peers voted 108 - 104 to support an amendment moved by Lady David, the Labour education spokeswoman, which would lead to the abolition of corporal punishment in schools.

The Bill, as amended, is now nonsense because its main purpose was to enable parents to opt out of corporal punishment for their children. It was introduced by reluctant ministers so that Britain complied with a three-year-old ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that parents' philosophical objections to corporal punishment must be respected.

After the defeat, Lord Whitelaw, leader of the Lords, postponed further discussion on the Bill, which is still in Report Stage.

The Government could now withdraw the Bill and propose an alternative one in the next parliamentary session, but ministers are understood to be reluctant to waste more time on the matter. Nor do they wish to drop it altogether, thus appearing to flout their obligations under the European Human Rights Convention.

During last Thursday's debate, a number of peers said they opposed abolition of corporal punishment but preferred it to the injustice of the Bill.

As the Earl of Onslow remarked: "I think we have all wanted to thrash our children, and I quite understand the schoolteachers who want to thrash the children in their class. However, to be able to thrash Johnny but not Fred would be ridiculous and unfair."

Thatcher: Philippa Davidson previews the National Festival of Music for Youth; John James reviews Red Noses at the Barbican (left) 19-23

Resources/Media Choosing a synthesizer for the music department: Martin Walley offers some guidelines. Drugs: Nick Baker on television's approach to the

NOTICEBOARD

PEOPLE...

The following appointments have been made in the Ribbles Valley district of Lancashire: Mrs Mary Halliwell to be head of Chorley Edmond county primary school; and Mrs Jacqueline Hargreaves to be head of Gillingham county primary school with immediate effect. Mr Peter Jump to be head of Langho St Leonards, CE primary school, from January 1985.



Mr Timothy Banyon, (pictured) head of Dunstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, to be head of The Lays College, Cambridge, on the retirement of Mr Bertie Bells in April 1985.

Mr Robert Chambers, second master at the Hall School, Harnshead, to be head of the Park School, Bath, on the retirement of Mr Peter Lewis in September.

Mr David Browning, tutor in community organization at Northern College, Barnsley, to be director of Manchester Open College Federation, based at Manchester Polytechnic.

CONFERENCES...

July 22-24 "Mathematics at 16", a conference organized by the MEI Schools Project at St Peter's College, Oxford. Sessions include the work of the SEC, coursework, criteria related grades, statistics at 16 + work of the HM Inspectorate. Fee: £65 resident, £45 non-resident. Details from MEI Office, 41a West Street, Oundle, Peterborough.

July 22-26 "Resources for Reading: Does Quality Count?" a United Kingdom Reading Association conference at this University of Reading. Details from Betty Root, Centre for the Teaching of Reading, 29 Eastern Avenue, Reading, RG1 5RU.

July 22-26 English Speaking Board conference on "Oral Skills 5-16 and onwards" at the Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln. Details from the conference secretary, English Speaking Board, 32 Roe Lane, Southport, Merseyside PR9 9EA.

July 28-August 4 International Youth Year Forum at Hadworthfield comprehensive school, Jarrow, at which young people from a number of countries will explore the themes of International Youth Year: participation, development and peace. Details from Mr Les Watson, Hadworthfield comprehensive school, Jarrow, South Tyneside.

July 28-August 23 Strawberry Hill Arts and Heritage Summer School will include a masterclass with John Barton and contributions from Jonathan Miller and Michael Holroyd. Courses include drama, creative writing, art and music appreciation, film, painting, photography and local and London heritage. Details from the Director, Summer School, St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW1 4SX.

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EVENTS...

July 11 "Teaching About Humanism": a meeting organized for the Association of RE Teachers in London by the British Humanist Association at Convent Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 from 4.30 pm to 7.15 pm. Details from BHA, 13 Prince of Wales Terrace, London W8 0L-937 2341 or ATRRL 01-850 1199.

July 16-17 "An introduction to behavioural approaches with secondary-aged pupils" is the title of a British Association for Behavioural Psychotherapy course on the prevention and management of problem behaviour in the secondary school, for psychologists, teachers, advisers and social workers to be held at the University of Warwick. Details from Mr Rod Holland, Psychology Department, Basingstoke District Hospital, Park Avenue, Basingstoke, Hants. Tel. 0256-473202, ext 4400.

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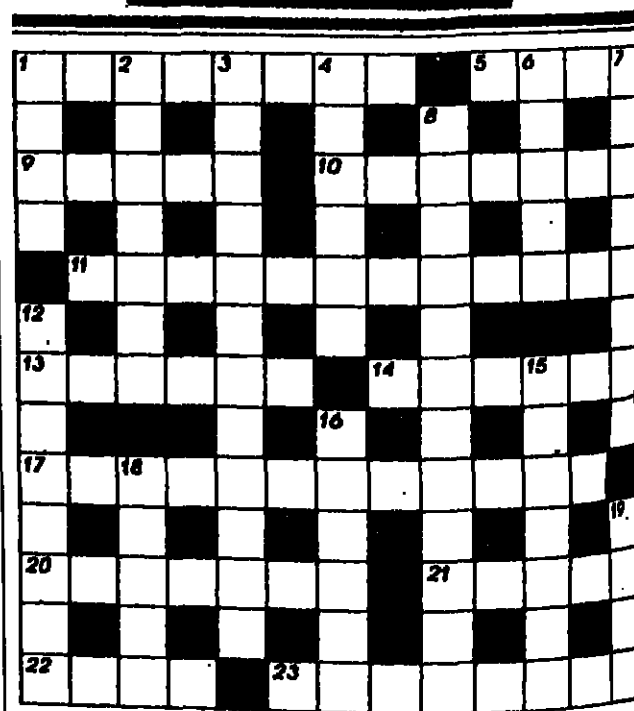
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No 210 CROSSWORD by Rufus



Across

- 1 Flushing's high-water control (4-4)
- 5 Mother, I'm seriously hurt (4)
- 9 It forms a ring in two ways (5)
- 10 No women around - it's heavenly! (3, 4)
- 11 Gas-crasher (9, 3)
- 13 Modernise a quiet duet, perhaps (2,4)
- 14 Bloomers are old-fashioned wear (6)
- 17 Suckers will always buy them (6, 6)
- 20 A number walk wearily around - it's hard work (7)
- 21 Make sure your ship isn't showing (5)
- 23 Contents of the ven-

Down

- 1 Sunny smile? (4)
- 2 Its quarters are hardly spicily (7)
- 3 Invitation to drink for the successful lawstudent? (4, 2, 3)
- 4 Article in paper is a house (6)
- 6 Mother is upset over our love-affair

Twenty years on

On July 12, 1965 – 20 years ago to the day – Anthony Crosland, Secretary of State for Education and Science in Harold Wilson's first administration, issued Circular 10/65 and initiated the centrally-coordinated change away from grammar and modern schools to comprehensive secondary education. In 1965 about 8.5 per cent of secondary pupils attended schools said to be comprehensive. By 1985, this percentage has risen to nearly 90. It has been a long and messy period of transition, punctuated by legislation and counter-legislation. In the first few years, the process was made easier by the fact that there was still a large school building programme and some at least of the new comprehensive schools could be created on green field sites. (It was a matter of fierce controversy that a second circular – 10/66 – reinforced the pressure on reluctant local authorities by making clear that the DES would use the control of building programmes to favour authorities which were going comprehensive and to penalize those which weren't.)

The concerted move towards comprehensive schools was the result of political intervention by groups within the Labour Party, most notably the Socialist Education Association. While there was already a clearly recognizable trend against selection at 11 and a small but slowly growing comprehensive sector, the educational establishment had remained more or less neutral on the matter. Most of the teachers' unions were unwilling to commit themselves on one side of the dispute or the other. The National Association of Head Teachers, the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Great Britain had no common view. The Newsom Committee which had reported on *Half Our Future*, had contrived to complete a full study of "the education of children of average and below average ability" without expressing any firm view on secondary reorganization, preferring instead to assume that the educational needs of the pupils would be the same whatever the system of school organization.

The political arguments for comprehensive education were of two kinds. On the one hand, they concerned equity and justice: selection at 11 seemed to discriminate unfairly against slow developers and children from less

advantaged homes, and it was assumed that to be given an inferior form of schooling. On the other, they envisaged the comprehensive schools as social institutions in which all would benefit from a cross-fertilization of ideas and experience, and that this would make for more harmonious relationships between social classes and wider opportunities of academic and practical studies for pupils of all abilities.

Naïve as these hopes may have been, they were reinforced by a range of practical arguments. The evidence of the limited reliability of the 11-plus selection procedures was telling. Middle-class parents clearly were not prepared to accept the secondary modern school if their children "failed" at 11. The increase in O level courses in sec mods, far from making them more acceptable, simply showed that overlap was necessary and possible: if it was possible with the limited resources of the secondary modern school, why not in a comprehensive? The *de facto* (and soon to be *de jure*) raising of the school leaving age also cast doubt on the need to make such important decisions at the age of 11.

What has happened since 1965 has done little to sustain the political arguments for comprehensive education, while the practical arguments have gathered weight.

Few people can have concluded that comprehensive schools have proved effective engines of social integration. And it is not possible to prove or disprove the arguments about equality and justice because the secondary modern school was never allowed to develop to its full potential. Moreover, within a few years of the issuing of Circular 10/65, the political activists who in the mid-1960s saw the comprehensive school as their chosen instrument of social reform, had begun to lose interest and turn their attention to other aspects of social policy.

But in practical terms, the comprehensive policy had a momentum of its own. Hall marks which perpetuated the co-existence of grammar and comprehensive schools offered no long-term answer, and the few attempts to reconstitute a selective system have been

extremely unpopular locally. Not surprisingly the educational community, for its part, has come to value continually above most other administrative considerations. Politically-inspired chopping and changing stands in the way of the evolution of sensible policies which recognize the realities the schools have to deal with.

In curricular terms it has taken a long time to get to grips with the logic of comprehensive reorganization. For many years the curriculum debate reflected a widespread desire to concentrate on structure while pretending that content could be left unchanged. It is to Sir Keith Joseph's credit that he is the first minister to challenge this, but even he has not freed the discussion of the common curriculum of all its uneasy ambiguities. Such ambiguities are no doubt unavoidable in schools which exist in the shadow of a higher education system which is elitist in the best and worst sense of the word. A common curriculum is not easily compatible with a system of higher education which puts supreme importance on the schools' sorting and sifting functions.

Twenty years on, many of the topics raised by the Newsom Report remain highly topical – the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative is only the latest and most dramatic attempt to address them. It is clear now that there is no going back to a tripartite or bipartite system: but questions of differentiation – how much, when, by what method – remain very much on the agenda.

The immediate focus of this is centred on the common area where secondary school and further education exams and curricula converge and, in particular, the attempt to create 14-19 courses orientated towards FE to match those traditionally guided by GCE O and A levels. The comprehensive principle now demands that these efforts should bear fruit and that the quest for an alternative route, frustrated over and over again in the last 100 years by the conflicting strength of the academic tradition, should at last be successful. If this is so, another and more fundamental reform of A levels and the sixth form cannot be indefinitely postponed.

COMMENT

Peers turn up trumps

Once again the House of Lords has done the right thing. The amendment successfully moved by Lady David at the Report stage has wrecked the Corporal Punishment Bill: or to put it more properly, it has turned it into an abolition Bill, instead of one to create two classes of children, one beatable, one unbeatable, in British schools.

The Government is embarrassed but can hardly be surprised by what has happened. It was faced with a dilemma caused by the Strasbourg judgment – a judgment which as Lord Denning (who, it should be noted, came out strongly in support of the abolition amendment) pointed out, was based on a barely plausible interpretation of the words of the European Convention. The absurd and unworkable compromise which has now been voted down was the result of the Government's attempt to avoid being forced into line with the rest of Europe on the basis of such a dubious legal interpretation.

But while it is not difficult to see why this ridiculous Bill came about, it is extremely hard to see why a majority of MPs, and more than 100 peers voted for it. There it is, however, at the appropriate time, their Lordships spotted the Emperor's nakedness.

Sir Keith Joseph now has to decide what to do about this amendment and its consequences. The lack of conviction behind the Bill in its original form was painfully obvious. What the Government should do now is to say: "We've done our best to satisfy that large non-party section of public opinion which believes that corporal punishment should be retained, but we've failed in the House of Lords because the overwhelming majority of the

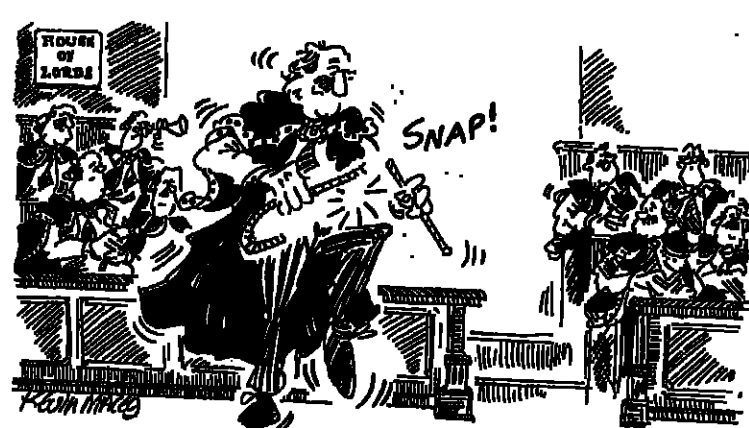
satisfy the Court ruling appeared to a majority of their Lordships (as it appears to all the teachers' associations, to the educational administrators and to the rest of organized education) to be defective. In the circumstances the best thing we can do is to accept the inevitable."

It is quite possible that other judgments from the European Court will come down against corporal punishment altogether, rendering the laborious search for an inequitable compromise a waste of time. What is important now is that the Government should recognize that the abolition of corporal punishment needs to be treated positively not just negatively. The schools will need support. Those which have, regrettably, relied too heavily on the cane, will need help in developing better ways of dealing with disruptive pupils. More suspensions are certainly not an adequate response.

Polite disbelief

Sir Keith Joseph had a polite but rather uneasy hearing at Tuesday's one-day conference on the Green Paper on *Higher Education into the 1990s* at the London University Institute of Education. The conference, organized by the Society for Research into Higher Education and *The Times* (page 5), produced the first major opportunity outside Parliament for Sir Keith to defend himself against the avalanche of criticism to which he and his Paper had been subjected.

As one perceptive overseas observer pointed out, to get the measure of the Green Paper you have to read the words and the music. As Sir Keith



Green Paper's repeated references to the humanities and their cultural importance (and even, on occasion, their vocational utility), the Green Paper contains the words which can be used to defend the Government against the charge of philistinism. But not the music: the music is all about the changes needed to subordinate higher education more effectively to the demands of economic effectiveness.

Sir Keith made his pitch quite effectively, coupling every reference to the humanities with a bow towards "rigour", and carefully underlining the Green Paper's qualified enthusiasm for wider access and continuing education by insisting that in all cases the prospective benefits had to justify the cost to the taxpayer.

Christopher Ball, at his most diplomatic, did his best to find good things to praise, before concentrating his criticism on these last two topics – access and continuing education. He welcomed the Green Paper's nod to continuing education, even if the suggestion that stringent tests would be needed to justify more public money cast some doubt on its sincerity.

The underlying criticism of the Green Paper, which cropped up again

and again, concerned resources: the rhetoric was all very well, but the resources were predetermined by Government policies for public expenditure and it might have been better to come clean about this. In so far as it purported to show how the Government thought demand for higher education should be met, the Green Paper maintained the pretence that demand is the product of some sort of free market when in reality it is "managed". Without some discussion of this management, the debate is pretty empty. This points up the delay in producing any discussion of grants/loans, and it also underlines how different everything would begin to look if the education of nurses were taken into HE.

no comment

"The argument I find hardest to stomach is that they say they have no alternative – that is always the argument of the tyrant."

Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP quoted in the Birmingham Evening Mail, June 11, 1985

Second opinion

Unwelcome messenger

In its short life so far, the Audit Commission has published around a dozen reports; so we have some experience of the way people react to criticism and constructive suggestions for improvement. Invariably, the instant reaction of the special interests involved – whether in central government or locally – is depressingly similar: shoot the messenger bearing the unwelcome news. The latest report, *Obtaining better value from further education*, has proved no exception. NATFHE claims that a 7 to 8 per cent improvement in lecturers' productivity, which is what is implied, is "an accountants' pipedream and an educationists' nightmare". Even respected figures like David Humphreys (TES, June 28) rehearse the stereotype of the accountant who knows the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

All this is disappointing. More important, it is at least questionable whether it serves the wider interests of further education at a time when Britain provides for a smaller proportion of our school-leavers (500,000 of whom are unemployed) than many of its competitors. Defensive reactions inevitably mask the very many examples of good practice and imaginative local initiatives to which the Commission draws attention. They obscure the considerable achievements of the service over the past few years, which are also described in the report. And, perhaps most damaging of all, they ignore the reaction of the paymasters of local government: the taxpayers.

The professional reaction is doubly disappointing to the Commission because it might be thought that the prospect of extending the undeniable benefits of further education and training to over 8 per cent more students would be generally accepted as an improvement in the value or effectiveness of the service.

David Humphreys does indeed find the Commission's comments helpful in a number of respects but claims that the auditors have addressed themselves only to economy and ignored efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr Humphreys' views on the value and importance of the further education service's role in meeting the country's needs in the "world of work" are amply echoed in the report. So why is he unhappy with it?

He asks whether value is to be assessed in examination successes, knowledge and skills acquired, employment gained or life-long earnings potential? Yes, of course it is. The author, however, is not so sure. "There is surely more to education", he asserts. Who would disagree? Certainly not the Audit Commission.

Though he agrees that the "Audit Commission is right to urge a review of conditions of service in further education", David Humphreys is critical of (his reading of) the detailed findings which justify the conclusion. The Commission is repeatedly castigated for claiming "savings". In fact, the report refers to "savings" only three times in 46 pages, and the Commission is claiming nothing – simply reporting what local authorities have agreed.

What we do suggest is that improved value could be obtained from further education without overstraining existing resources. How this is to be achieved will depend upon the local situation; the Commission is not in favour of rigid application of benchmarks or norms. In fact, all the measures needed to achieve the improvement suggested in the report have already been introduced in many colleges and polytechnics.

David Humphreys calls for the development of a total audit of both effectiveness and efficiency. This seems an eminently constructive suggestion; the Audit Commission would be happy to discuss detailed proposals.

Jack Spriggs

Jack Spriggs is a senior manager with the Audit Commission.

Emergency budget restrictions draw scathing criticism from HMI

Cuts have left Dyfed in crisis, say inspectors

by Bert Lodge

A scathing report on how cuts have affected the Dyfed education authority has been compiled by Her Majesty's Inspectorate.

The "constant atmosphere of crisis" in recent years, including emergency cuts in the budget twice in the middle of a financial year, makes it impossible to run the education service in Dyfed efficiently, says the report.

Only with financial help from parents and the community was provision maintained in 1983-84 at somewhere near previous levels and then not widely, the report says. As to 1984-85, reductions of 10 per cent and 20 per cent respectively in the capitulation of secondary and primary schools must have allowed little scope for forward planning and exacerbated "an already tight resource situation".

The authority has a bilingual language policy for primary schools with the aim that all pupils leave for the secondary school with a reasonable facility in both languages. But some schools, particularly in urban areas, have failed to make adequate provision for Welsh.

The report is based on evidence accumulated by HM Inspectorate during 1977-84. Each year, inspectors visited 30 per cent of about 400 primary schools, 90 per cent of 35 secondary schools and all the six colleges of further education and one college of art.

In further education, they found a shortage of finance which has persisted since reorganization more than a decade ago. Non-vocational FE has been reduced to a skeleton service. "The examples of good practice cannot compensate for its overall insufficiency."

The inspectors acknowledge that Dyfed has a difficult task. Communities range over wide social, linguistic and cultural backgrounds and over a wide geographical area, much of it sparsely populated. The geography results in a large number of small schools. Moreover, the coexistence of two languages requires complex organizational patterns in schools or separate provision for bilingual education in designated bilingual schools.

Extra financial demands are made on the authority by having to provide

both Welsh and English-medium education in small schools. This also presents formidable organizational and pedagogical challenges. Small secondary schools require a more favourable teacher-pupil ratio than larger schools and bilingual provision necessitates both English and Welsh medium resources.

Yet there are advantages in Dyfed. "Scholarship and learning have traditionally been held in high regard in all areas of Dyfed, particularly so in some areas, and interest in schooling has remained strong. The majority of parents are supportive of education. Schools are almost invariably orderly communities where the ethos is conducive to learning."

At secondary level, while there are some opportunities for exploratory investigatory work, especially in the early years, pupils are too often passive recipients of information rather than active participants in their own learning.

At both primary and secondary level, a worrying feature is the inconsistency in the quality of provision both between and within schools. "Teachers' awareness of general and specific educational developments is variable. This has not been helped by the curtailment of in-service training during the last few years and the absence of an overall strategy for staff development based on identified need."

Mr Jack James, chairman of the education committee, said: "We have been making representations at the highest level for some years about the under-funding of the education service and here we have an independent body, HM Inspectorate, confirming what we have been saying. "But there is much in the report that pleases us. Dyfed examination results are considerably better than the average for Wales as a whole and the authority is commended for its provision for children with special needs."

Education provision by Dyfed education authority. Report by HM Inspectorate. Copies from the local education authority or the Education Department, Welsh Office, Cathays Park, Cardiff.

SHA joins call for separate talks

Continued from page 1
tween claim and offer. They also accepted the pay data working party report – showing teachers' pay had declined by more than 30 per cent since 1974. Both sides agreed that Government targets and penalties on i.e.a. spending had frustrated a settlement.

The teachers wanted to include a paragraph in the statement saying: "The representatives (of both sides) recognise that the offer of a 5 per cent increase from April 1 is patently inadequate to produce a settlement from April 1, 1985. To resolve this, there is a requirement to include in the settlement a significant element towards the recovery of the decline identified by the pay data working party. In order to seek additional finance from central government to meet the costs of such a settlement, the teachers and employers will, on the conclusion of this agreement, seek an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State for Education and Science."

The management wanted this clause to read: "The representatives recognise that the offer of a 5 per cent increase from April 1 is inadequate to produce a settlement for 85/86. We have concluded that an appropriate



Sir Keith Joseph said to be interested in a separate negotiating forum.

level of remuneration for teachers for 85/86 can be achieved only by a commitment from government through the release of additional finance.

"Additionally, the representatives acknowledge the need to produce the circumstances whereby a start can be made towards the recovery of the decline identified by the pay data working party report, as well as the

NEWS



Raymond Honeyford: decision-maker challenged.

Heads take Honeyford case to High Court

The National Association of Head Teachers this week called for any decision on the future of Mr Ray Honeyford, the Bradford middle school head suspended after a race-relations row, to be taken out of the hands of Mr Norman Roper, the assistant director of education.

The association has also applied to the High Court for a judicial review of the case, a move which led to the indefinite postponement this week of a crucial meeting arranged for Wednesday between Mr Roper, Mr Honeyford and Mr David Hart, NAHT general secretary.

The final decision on Mr Honeyford's future lies with Mr Roper, but his position is "plainly untenable", the NAHT said this week in a letter to Mr

Gordon Moore, Bradford chief executive.

"Not only did he (Mr Roper) formulate charges against Raymond Honeyford but he was part of the 'prosecuting team' which presented the case against the head at the governors' hearing and he also gave evidence in support of the complaints."

The NAHT has also challenged the city council's interpretation of the articles of government for the school and of the procedures relating to suspension and dismissal of a head in its conditions of service.

The letter says that when the governors recommend reinstatement and not dismissal as in this case, that is the end of the matter and the review procedures involving Mr Roper have no application.

Modern languages survey to be dumped

by Biddy Passmore

The government-funded survey of pupils' performance in foreign languages, the first fruits of which were published last week, is to be dropped after three years.

The Department of Education's decision is expected to cause a storm of protest at next Friday's meeting of the consultative committee of the Assessment of Performance Unit, which advises the Government on the unit's research.

The survey, the first ever national investigation of the achievement of pupils of all abilities, is one of a series commissioned by the Department of Education's APU. The others – in English language, maths and science – are all running for five years.

In modern languages, only the French study is to be continued for three years. German and Spanish are to be dropped now, after one year.

A DES spokesman said ministers believe the researchers should concentrate on "milking the data dry" and then producing more data. The results of the other surveys had differed very little from year to year, he said.

Dr Clare Bursall, director of the National Foundation for Educational Research, which has been conducting the modern languages survey, said the apparent absence of follow-up studies meant a great deal of expensive developed data and test material would be wasted.

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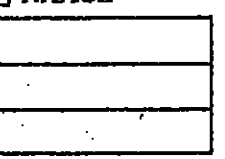
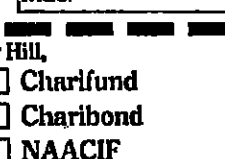
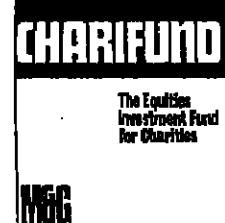
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Has the revolution started at last?

John Fish likes to think of his report *Equal Opportunities for All* as evolutionary, a logical development of his own work and thinking. But if it is given the attention it deserves, and not only in the education system, its effects could be revolutionary for the many thousands of children and young people currently segregated on grounds of disability or significant difficulty.



Peter Newell (left) argues that the Fish report has cut through the compromise and confusion caused by the Warnock Report and the 1981 Education Act. If local authorities give it the attention it deserves the lives of thousands of youngsters with special educational needs could be improved immeasurably.

Chairing a committee whose membership had, as the beginning, a potential for total disagreement. On the central issue of ending segregation in special education, John Fish was determined to produce a unanimous report. He did so, to the credit of his colleagues and himself, by achieving agreement first on a set of basic principles. These are presented with a clarity which should cut through the compromise and confusion caused by the Warnock Report, and the 1981 Education Act, and ensure that discussions on these issues are never quite the same again.

The Warnock Report, as Lady Warnock herself has since testified, fudged the issue of integration as a matter of policy: while there is general support for the movement of an "increasing proportion" of children with special educational needs into ordinary schools, the report's chapter on Special Education in Special Schools nevertheless begins: "We are in no doubt whatever that special schools will continue to feature prominently in the range of provision for children with special educational needs." In the light of Fish, a report commissioned by the Inner London Education Authority, it is ironic perhaps that this paragraph goes on immediately to quote the evidence Warnock received from the ILEA. This guidance affirmed that "in many respects the special school represents a highly developed technique of positive discrimination." John Fish was a Warnock Committee assessor.

In the context of the principles in the Fish Report - of equal access to equal opportunities, anti-discrimination and truly "comprehensive" comprehensive schools, that view is no longer respectable. "The aims of education for children and young people with disabilities and significant difficulties are the same as those for all children and

young people... Disabilities and significant difficulties do not diminish the right to equal access to and participation in society." And so "all those responsible for providing services to children and young people, whether or not they have specific responsibilities for those with disabilities and significant difficulties, should accept the aim of integration for all."

Warnock hinted at the relative nature of handicap, but Fish fleshes out the concept unambiguously: "Disabilities and difficulties become more or less handicapping depending on the expectations of others and on social contexts. Handicaps thus arise from the mismatch between the intellectual, physical, emotional and social behaviour and aspirations of the individual and the expectations, appropriate or otherwise, of the community and society at large. Individuals with disabilities or significant difficulties may be handicapped by their own attitude to them and by the attitude of others. Of equal significance, the degree to which the individual is handicapped is determined by the educational, social, physical and emotional situations which he or she encounters."

Following on from Warnock, the 1981 Education Act gave fudging a legal framework - putting the principle that all children with special educational needs must be educated in ordinary schools into section 2 of the Act, and then rendering it entirely ineffective by adding four conditions which must be satisfied before these young people - around 175,000 as the Act puts it - can be sent to special places in mainstream institutions. The Act also maintains some examples of direct discrimination against these young people and their parents - the

requirement to get permission before withdrawing from a special school, and the powerless nature of appeal committees hearing special educational provision appeals.

And the definitions in section 1 of the Act could have been designed to demonstrate that handicap is a relative concept - a child has a learning difficulty if "he has a disability which either prevents or hinders him from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided in schools, within the area of the local education authority concerned, for children of his age."

In Fish, there is no sign of fudging either in the basic principles, in the context of which the committee want the whole report to be considered, or in the bold-type major policy recommendations. Here and there in the body of the report there are signs of the tensions which existed within the basic agreement on principles. For example the suggestion, unexplained, that "some special schools may continue to be necessary", and the rather weak recommendation that "more in hope than expectation" that "when residential places are needed, they should allow young people to retain close links with their homes, local communities and local services". (In this last case, the weakness arose, apparently, from an accidental services to fulfil their obligations; but surely the principle is that education authorities should not be providing substitute homes any more than social services should be providing education.)

Challenged on which special schools might continue to be needed in the longer term, John Fish says that in his (extensive) travels, he has yet to see acute psychiatric patients, or highly disturbed, acting out young people,

meaningfully integrated. Neither he nor, he believes, his committee were thinking of any other categories which might justify segregation in the longer term. It is hard to see the justification for even this tentative "line-drawing", given the committee's starting point. The fact that some young people will need hospital-based treatment at least for short periods does not justify institutionalising the separation of their education.

In a similar way, John Fish found it necessary at the launching press conference for his report to say that "we are not telling ILEA to close all its special schools". While it is true that no such specific recommendation can be found, the report does say that any persisting segregation "should be seen as an interim solution resulting from an inability to achieve these long-term aims, and not as a long-term solution compatible with the comprehensive principle". The motive is undoubtedly "defensiveness, an attempt to defuse the defensiveness of some sectors of special education, to carry along with the basic arguments those whose much needed skills and commitment are at present applied in separate schools, or in support of the separate system."

The report sets out with sensitivity the central role which these people will have - should have - in framing their own integrated future; indeed they are well-placed to become effective advocates for integration, and as such the fiercest critics of those aspects of "ordinary" schools which currently cause so many special needs, schools whose physical, social and educational contexts so often add to disability and difficulty.

Teacher union reaction to the report has so far concentrated on resource implications - segregation in itself has ceased to be something that many

people feel able to defend; but they can and do argue that integration must follow consultation, and that it must be dependent on adequate resources being made available.

Such statements are in themselves discriminatory. Why should young people with disabilities and significant difficulties have to wait their place in mainstream education on grounds of resources? The implications of Fish's insistence on equal access to equal opportunities are clear for any local education authority which accepts the principle: if it decides that additional funds are required for implementation, the authority must either raise the funds or, if it is operating post-rate-capping within a fixed budget, it must re-examine and redistribute that budget from an equal opportunities perspective. (Fish, incidentally, hints that its segregated future may be more expensive - asking for an ILEA commitment to maintain "at least the same percentage of any budget to meeting special educational needs, and of course arguing that resources released by 'changes' in special school provision should not be lost but used for support of comprehensive schools.")

Fish also suggests that parents' unique contribution should be given "equal weight" in assessment and decision-making, the logical interpretation of partnership. But the report does less than justice to young people's own views - what is their weight in decision-making? It is one of the few questions which Fish's basic principles do not answer.

But they do provide a philosophy and set of ground rules against which all I.E.A.s - and social services and health authorities - can measure their existing provision. Whenever they are not taken seriously and applied, young people with special needs will continue, as the report underlines, to be marginalized.

Peter Newell works at the Children's Legal Centre. *Equal Opportunities for All* will be on sale from August 1 from the Order Processing Department, ILEA Centre for Learning Resources, 275 Kennington Lane, London SE11 5QZ. For ILEA employees the price is £5 plus 50p; for others £8 plus 80p p.p.h.

wisdom at the centre which is simply unattainable. The authors of the Education Act 1944 were wiser: they left important decisions to those who had some chance of knowing what they were doing. This is how good ideas can come from any part of the service at any time.

The key to this approach is to distinguish between problems and their solution. National governments are required by their electorates to tackle national problems. It is necessary for governments to say what those problems are and to find the most means by which solutions might be found. It is usually a mistake, however, for governments to decide what the solutions should be. For example, it may be thought that Britain has a need to increase industrial competitiveness. It is right that the Government should identify such a problem. But its attempts to formulate a solution must and do fail: the people it is institutionally set up to hear are established (in the past) not creative, and the business of getting an idea adopted is so time-consuming as to induce obsolescence. It is individuals and institutions who can respond, and all administrative devices - legal, administrative, financial - should encourage them to do so. This is true even of the management of adversity. Local authorities that have peacetime centrally foisted upon them are coming to see that the way to avoid educational disaster is to rely on the self-management of schools.

Educational leadership is not a matter of knowing best and telling people what to do. Rather it is about persuading people that there are problems to be tackled and creating a climate in which they are eager to tackle them. For this purpose the law and traditions of English education are more friendly than recent approaches, whether organic or architectural.

Tyrrell Burgess is reader in the philosophy of special institutions at the North London Polytechnic.

Study backs classroom observation of teachers

by Mike Durham

Classroom observation of teachers at work is essential if any scheme for teacher assessment is to succeed, according to a report published this week.

The 150-page study, compiled by a team from Suffolk I.E.A. and paid for by the Department of Education and Science, has been studied by Sir Keith Joseph.

Among other conclusions, it argues strongly against the introduction of merit pay and calls for a significant overhaul in other areas of the education service in order to make appraisal "cost effective".

It warns that a teacher assessment system introduced on a national level, as contemplated by the Education Secretary, would be expensive in terms of time and money. But it would be justified by the results.

The Suffolk study offers guidelines for the establishment of appraisal schemes at local and national levels, but does not offer a model system. Classroom observation, the study says, must be "seen to be central to the process of appraisal". It proposes observations by trained appraisers - normally the teacher's own head of department or head teacher.

"Many teachers express unease about this, feeling that observers are an intrusion into the classroom, their very presence changing the situation. 'Observational' data must be gathered with particular care and on more than one occasion. Teachers must have confidence in the fairness of the process," it says.

"Training will be essential to ensure that appraisers become skilled observers; it cannot be assumed that good teachers will necessarily be good observers. Teachers and appraisers need to see observation in a constructive way."

Observation should be followed by an informal interview of at least 45 minutes to establish teachers' views of their own performance, and ways of improving it.

The teacher's interests and aspirations should be given attention, and the discussion should then move into consideration of suitable targets for the following year.

"Above all, the focus should be on performance in the defined job rather than on personality."

Teachers could look forward to developing their long-term professional skills, as well as more immediate results - such as being sent on a course, invited to visit another school or attached to a team teaching project.

But the study comes out strongly against "merit pay" linked to appraisal, either in the form of a cash bonus or automatic promotion through the teaching grades.

The researchers studied merit pay schemes in large companies and some schools in Europe and the United States and concluded it would be divisive and counter-productive.

"Merit payments, of necessity, involve grading people on some scale of performance values... these assessments can lead, at best, to disappointment, and at worst, to resentment and demotivation amongst the workforce."

"Critical self-assessment is not easily achieved from an individual if an adverse result in the form of a lower-than-expected salary is a possibility."

The study says most teachers believe their salaries and working conditions to be poor. A merit pay scheme, they say, would work only if salaries were already at an adequate level.

One scheme in the US impressed the researchers because it rewarded highly-regarded teachers and there were no quotas - every teacher who met the criteria received a bonus.

But the cost of such an "open-ended" commitment would be too high to be acceptable to the Government or local education authorities.

Other problems of merit pay schemes include the danger of creating a breed of "super-teachers" in parents' eyes.

"The differentiation of teachers into 'superior' and 'competent' categories is quickly perceived by the public rather as 'successful' and 'unsuccessful'."

"There is then a demand from parents for their children to be taught only by the 'superior' teachers in the school."

But the study recommends rewarding teachers in ways which do not involve money - such as sabbaticals or leave or teacher fellowships. It recommends pilot studies of both ideas.

And the researchers urge the notion of "corporate reward for corporate excellence", with schools being rewarded for achieving annual objectives.

It would encourage a team approach, provide support to competent teachers in the context of a whole school, and bring peer group pressure on less successful ones.

"The scheme's greatest potential advantage is that it would provide a vehicle for a cohesive pattern of national education, which in some instances could flow all the way from the Secretary of State, through the I.E.A.s, to every classroom teacher."

At the opposite end of the scale, teachers who "fail" their appraisal should not be punished or disciplined directly as a result, the study suggests. To do so would undermine the value of appraisal as a tool for critical

self-assessment. Instead, the appraisal should provide a framework to pinpoint and overcome weaknesses in a teacher's work.

Poor teachers would be offered support and training. Only after several periods of intensive support, monitoring and training would more formal disciplinary procedures be invoked if the teacher's work was still unsatisfactory.

The cost and time implications of a fully-established scheme could be enormous. To train the "appraisers" alone would entail more support staff, and allow less time for teaching.

The study recommends three-day training courses for heads of department, followed by annual one-day refresher courses. They suggest a "professional development day" in every school.

Head teachers, education officers and I.E.A. advisers involved in appraisal would have to be released from administrative duties by engaging more support staff.

The study suggests that the appraisal itself would take eight to 12 hours per teacher, per year. Appraisers might spend anything up to half their time in school carrying out the task.

The study cites one scheme in the US which cost \$200,000 to set up and has a running cost of \$1,000 a year for each teacher.

The appraisal study team is now recommending that field trials must be carried out to work out practical guidelines for setting up a system.

One of the team, Mr Wilf Hornfield, head of Westbourne High School, Ipswich, said: "We think field trials could begin in 12 months and last for three years. A full scheme could be in place in four or five years."

"It will be very expensive. But it would be worthwhile. But we would have to look for savings by greater efficiency elsewhere in the education service for it really to be cost-effective."

Sir Keith Joseph has welcomed the report and called for teachers and local authorities to begin talks with the DES on a pilot project.

He said the Government would make available resources for fieldwork in education support grants.

The National Union of Teachers also praised the report and said it was prepared to enter tripartite talks on setting up an assessment project.

Mr Doug McAvoy, the NUT's deputy general secretary, said the Suffolk study gave "welcome confirmation" to the union's view that merit pay was unacceptable. "It is heartening to note that wherever merit pay is introduced or studied, it has been given a resounding thumbs-down," he said.



Preocious 13-year-old Ruth Lawrence, who gained a first-class honours degree in maths in two, instead of three, years from Oxford last year, coming top out of the 192 candidates, intends to stay at the university to concentrate on research. Ruth, who criticises her fellow students for not working hard enough, won an open scholarship to St Hugh's College at the age of 10.

University applicants adopt direct approach

Three-quarters of the last-minute applicants to university who get a place through "clearing" are now simply confirming an informal offer made to them over the telephone, careers teachers were told this week.

Mr Richard Skerrett, chief administrative officer of the Universities Central Council on Admissions, said that the number of direct approaches to universities by would-be students after A level results was growing. But he urged schools and candidates not to telephone university admissions officers for at least three days after the results were published.

Mr Skerrett was telling teachers how UCCA worked at a conference on university applications at Essex University. He said 15 per cent of all the applications forms UCCA received had something wrong with them, such as misreading of universities or courses or illegibility.

Reminding his audience that forms were reduced in size before being sent to universities, he said references should be clearly typed. Some schools appeared to be economizing by typing all their references with one ribbon, he said.

He also urged schools not to ask for more forms and booklets than they needed and said they should establish one point of contact with UCCA. Sometimes six or seven individuals each thought they were ordering for the whole school.

For home candidates applying from schools there was no point in missing the December 15 deadline for applications, he said. There was a mechanism for applying throughout the year - the Continuing Applications Procedure - but it was not popular with universities and they did not rely on it. The best time for submitting applications was during October and the first half of November, to allow time for choosing universities and writing good references.

Mr Skerrett caused alarm among some teachers by saying that the new clearing house for polytechnic applications - PCAS - would operate on a "first come, first served" basis.

But Mr Tony Higgins, chief executive of PCAS, told *The TES* that he was advising admissions officers to pace their offers both because it was fairer and because they might otherwise miss good applicants.

Biddy Passmore reports on the Education Secretary's defence of the higher education Green Paper. Sir Keith rejects charge of philistinism

A wounded Sir Keith Joseph turned on the critics of his higher education Green Paper this week, rejecting their charge of philistinism and suggesting they had wilfully misrepresented the Government's approach.

The Education Secretary, who was speaking at a conference in London organized by *The TES* and the Society for Research into Higher Education, said:

"The allegation that the Government undervalues higher education, or regards higher education as a merely useful activity in the narrow sense of the term, is a fantasy of our critics. He claimed that both his own record and the Green Paper itself clearly showed his support for the humanities."

But Sir Keith couched his defence of the Government's approach with a stern restatement of some of the Green Paper's themes.

He called for a continuing search for better ways of financing higher education, and urged the public to support their teaching and examination standards, and expressed

strong support for more selectivity in the funding of research.

Sir Keith also endorsed the Green Paper's view that student numbers will fall by the mid-1990s. But he gave some reassurance to his critics by describing the Green Paper figures as a "starting point" and said they were not a policy beyond the current planning period.

The Education Secretary recognized that quality was under threat "at a time of financial constraint" and that this called for increased vigilance.

But he declared: "It is not enough simply to tell the Government that the maintenance of quality depends upon the provision of any particular historical level of resources."

He was disturbed by his feeling that it was only in the past two or three years that the universities in particular had begun to pay serious attention to their machinery for ensuring quality in teaching and protecting standards.

On the subject of scientific and technological subjects, Sir Keith said he was neither "philistine" nor "naïve" to

insist upon the contribution of higher education to wealth creation. High thoughts did not depend on prosperity but higher education did depend on public money.

He pointed out that 47 per cent of students in universities and 60 per cent of those in the public sector were now taking subjects outside the sciences and engineering - even though some might be taking highly vocational courses. The Government was talking about a "change of emphasis" to numerate and technological disciplines.

The Government's commitment to the arts and humanities - "based on a whole-hearted recognition of these subjects when well-taught and conscientiously studied" - was a commitment to the preservation of quality, not to the preservation of the present number of places. He acknowledged, however, that there should be enough "in a subject to make it a viable career opportunity."

To the extent that resources were released by falling demand from 18

and 19-year-olds and could be redeployed within higher education, he would give priority to maintaining the science base and developing continuing education, Sir Keith said.

"... To pretend that the effect of 20 years of only loosely controlled expansion since Robbins has left us with the best of all possible systems, needing only constant injections of money to keep it in perfect condition, would be a mistake," Sir Keith said. "There is much to be done."

Sir Keith's speech did not appear to convince leading figures from the universities and public sector who were taking part in the conference.

Mr Maurice Shock, vice-chancellor of Leicester University and chairman of the vice-chancellors' committee, said he feared the Education Secretary had spoken to little effect.

Rather than blaming the universities for "anti-business snobbery", however, that there should be enough "in a subject to make it a viable career opportunity" was the very faintest of suggestions.

To the extent that resources were released by falling demand from 18

"mere *réchauffée*" of familiar political attitudes and prejudices be called on the Government now to make a statement of its aims for higher education, with policy to follow.

He made a special plea for financial stability; it was surely an admission of political bankruptcy if the Government said it could not guarantee even minimum funds over a period of time.

Mr Christopher Ball, chairman of the National Advisory Board for local authority higher education, welcomed the Green Paper's support for continuing education and broader criteria for entry to higher education.

But he lamented the Government's failure to carry those policies through into higher projections for students.

"Student demand is not a natural phenomenon, like rain," he said. "It is managed." He warned of the "demographic trap" of the 1990s, when the number of 18-year-olds would be falling.

On the subject of "anti-business snobbery", however, that there should be enough "in a subject to make it a viable career opportunity" was the very faintest of suggestions.

"There are basically," said the then Secretary of State, "two attitudes to organization. One is to build up a structure which you believe is right - it might perhaps be called the architectural approach - and oblige people to work within it. The other is to go for a network of living institutions - call it the organic approach - where there is room for adaptation and experiment. I am myself convinced that the organic approach is better. It suits our way of life in this country. For the architectural approach, you must be sure you have all the right answers, whereas good ideas can come from any part of the service at any time."

Margaret Thatcher's ruminations at the North of England conference in 1971 read oddly today, when people in education are more and more conscious of a "structure" designed and imposed from above and within which they are "obliged" to work.

The present Secretary of State must feel he has "all the right answers" since he is urging them with vim even in matters where his predecessors were more reticent. "Architectures" in education is all the rage, in everything from finance to curriculum. How is it that Mrs Thatcher comes to be presiding over, and indeed supporting, an approach which is the opposite to that which she prefers?

It is no new experience for her. She was one of the few politicians in the early 1970s who preferred selection at 11 plus yet at the Secretary of State she approved more schemes for abolishing it than any other. She manages a unique combination of knowing what she wants, holding to it with stubbornness and failing to get it. What goes wrong?

Michael Locke, John Pratt and I are publishing a book this week which suggests an answer to this question. It is a study of the institutional revolution that followed the White Paper of 1972, in which the distinctive colleges of education disappeared and the colleges and institutes of higher education emerged.

We show how the deed was done, what happened to the institutions and what effect this had on the kind, quality and interests of their students (the data here are unique). We tell our

idea which an organic approach was said to make possible. What is more, if an idea has emerged, the central Department was ill-placed to recognize it or know what to do with it.

Thus it was that the organic approach became architectural, with the establishment of the National Advisory Body in 1982. This experience of the colleges was not untypical. The schools are also finding that they are so distracted by central initiatives that serious thought about their proper responsibilities is becoming daily more difficult. For them, as for the colleges, "planning" has meant doing your best in face of a series of nasty surprises.

Of the many causes of demoralization in education, this growing sense of being merely victims is particularly important. Is there any remedy?

A first step would be to realize that we are not limited by Margaret Thatcher's bleak alternatives. The world is bigger than she thinks and holds more possibilities than she can imagine.

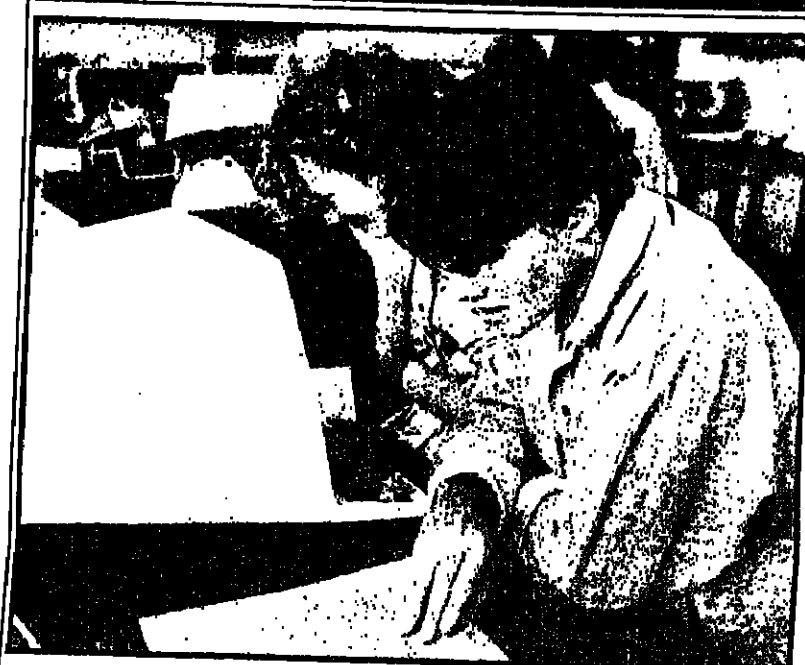
One of them is the constitutional approach. Let the Secretary of State concentrate on his proper job - of promoting the education of the people and the progressive development of institutions devoted to that purpose, by the means provided for him in the Education Acts. This does indeed leave initiatives where they rightly belong, for example, in the schools for curriculum and in the local authorities for provision.

The objection to what has been happening recently is that raised by Mrs Thatcher, too, the architectural approach, the assumption of monopoly of initiative by the central government.

The Colleges of Higher Education, 1972 to 1982, the central management of organic change. Michael Locke, John Pratt and Tyrrell Burgess. Oxford Press, 1984. Sandilands, Croydon, CR0 3JA. £22.95.

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Girls in mixed secondaries may need more encouragement to use computers.

Pupils 'must be taught limitations of computer'

Though most pupils may own a computer by the time they are 16, they should be taught its limitations says the Independent Schools' Microelectronics Centre, in what it claims is the first policy statement ever on the place of computers in the school curriculum.

The main reason for introducing computers into schools is to prepare pupils for the contact they will have with them later in their lives. It is not to turn them all into computer programmers, the centre stresses.

There is plenty of evidence that girls are just as capable as boys when it comes to using computers (some would say better) and no distinction is made between girls, boys or mixed schools in the statement.

"However, there is some evidence that in mixed secondary school groups, girls may need more encouragement to

persist in the face of social pressures." At junior school level, all pupils should be able to operate a micro-computer and to run a program with the same familiarity and relaxed confidence as they show towards other everyday technology, the report says.

In senior schools pupils at 16 should have experience of using a computer to run programs for a range of applications. They should be able to assemble and organize data for entry into a computer database and be able to use more complex databases such as census data in history, weather data in science or environmental studies or personal records in school administration.

Copies of the policy statement from the Information Officer, ISMEC, Westminster College, North Hinksey, Oxford.

CEO says cuts will cause real damage

by Jane Last

Money for essential books, paper and writing equipment, maintenance of school buildings and the library service is to be cut as Buckinghamshire reduces its education budget by £2,675,000.

When planning the budget the council adopted public expenditure guidelines set down early this year of a 3 per cent increase in pay and 4½ per cent increase in prices.

In view of the teachers' pay dispute, they have recalculated the figures to include a 5 per cent increase in pay and 6 per cent increase in prices. The county council will therefore have to find an extra £3.6 million and calculate education's share of this to be over £2½ million.

"These reductions don't represent removal of fat", said Mr Charles Garrett, chief education officer. "They represent real damage to the service for which the education committee is responsible."

The cuts include a 12.5 per cent cut in school capital allowances amounting to £458,000, which will severely affect the authority's ability to replace textbooks and provide new equipment for children.

The education general purpose sub-committee has already identified savings of £1,932,000 and meets this week to find the remaining £743,000.

The library service will be cut by £175,000, schools bearing £55,000 and colleges £20,000. The school maintenance programme will be reduced by £300,000 and further education colleges will lose £210,000.

Saving of £164,000 will be made in the areas of ground maintenance, school meals, and delays in filling non-teaching vacancies and youth service workers.

Mrs Gillian Miscampbell, chairman of the education committee said: "We took this step with very great regret knowing the damage it will cause."

New threat to city I.e.a.s

Outer London boroughs and Labour-run big city I.e.a.s would be most affected by a drastic change in the Government's spending target rules likely to be unveiled next week.

According to reports, Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, is considering revising procedures for penalizing high-spending local authorities.

He is expected to announce the abolition of spending targets. They will be replaced by a new target at the level of the so-called grant-related expenditure assessment (GREA).

This is the figure calculated by Whitehall to be the sum each authority needs to spend to maintain a reasonable level of service. At present, some authorities have been given spending targets much higher than GREA, but many counties have been set targets below their GREAs.

I.e.a.s which would have to make big cuts to meet GREA, would include the Inner London Education Authority, Manchester and Newcastle.

Independence of church schools may be reduced

by Bert Lodge

Recommendations which could lead to church schools losing some of their traditional independence were welcomed last week by the General Synod of the Church of England.

The synod, the Church's "parliament" is made up of over 500 representatives of lay and clergy. They agreed to consider revising the composition and increasing the powers of the 43 diocesan education committees.

This will almost certainly reduce the autonomy enjoyed by aided schools whose governing bodies—two-thirds of them nominated by the Church—are responsible for conduct, curriculum and religious education. With the agreement of the local authority, they also control admissions policy.

Local authority administrators have complained for years of the difficulties

of sensible cooperation with the Church. Diocesan education committees are large, complicated in construction and have only advisory status.

This unsatisfactory state of affairs is described in the document, *Positive Partnership*, adopted last week by the synod and in which revision of the committee is recommended.

"Many local authority representatives... are confused by receiving a range of different answers to their question... with no apparent source of authority from whom they might expect to receive definitive answers on which future planning policy can be safely based."

"The I.e.a. has no alternative but to set about its task piecemeal, assessing the contribution of each church school on an individual basis, often with

unsatisfactory results both for the authority and dioceses as a whole. The situation is bad enough even as things stand now. With increasing DES intervention in the system however, there will be greater need for the Church to be able to respond in a coordinated well thought out manner."

The prospect of more than 2,000 aided schools losing some of their independence will not dismay many of their heads even though governors may object.

In 1981 a group of 20 heads of London church secondary schools published what came to be known as the Allington Statement in which they declared a readiness to have some powers taken from them and vested in the diocesan board of education.

Attitudes harden in no-strike head row

by Jane Last

Ian Mitchell-Lambert (below), head of Howbury Grange, continues his fight to keep the school open



A major row is erupting after months of fermentation between a head accused of working too much, his two deputies who are working to rule, three teachers' unions and the local authority.

In one corner is Mr Ian Mitchell-Lambert, the headteacher who has kept Howbury Grange School, Bexley, open through 18 months of continuous industrial action. Mr Mitchell-Lambert is a member of the no-strike Professional Association of Teachers. He is backed by a handful of staff including the former NUT and NAS/UWT representatives in his school.

In the other corner are his two deputy heads, Mr Tony Williams, backed by the NUT, and Miss Pat Carroll, supported by the NAS/UWT. They are accused of not attending meetings outside school hours, in line with their unions' pay dispute policy. The head claims these are necessary to run the school.

Mr Mitchell-Lambert has begun disciplinary proceedings against his two deputies. At the NUT and NAS/UWT are threatening "never ending industrial action" if the local education authority allows him to continue with the disciplinary action. The unions

have also discussed calling out all the teachers in the area.

Both parties claim to be acting in the best interests of the children. The London Borough of Bexley Education Authority, which is making no comment, stands between the two sides heading on their collision course.

Howbury Grange has been described as the school with the worst strike record in the country. For 18 months teachers have walked out, refused to attend parents' evenings and meetings outside school hours, and declined to stand in for absent colleagues. Mr Mitchell-Lambert has worked a 70-hour week to keep the school open.

Last year, with the aid of just three of his 42 staff, he took classes of 100 children rather than close down, and once he called in the police during a picket by teachers.

Howbury Grange, an 11-18 comprehensive of 650 children, is the only social priority school in the area, with one-third of its pupils coming from one parent families.

"That's why I won't put them out", he said. "The pressures are difficult enough - mum in a low-paid job,

working unsocial hours - I won't increase those pressures."

Mr Mitchell-Lambert believes a solution to the teachers' pay dispute can still come through negotiation. "I'm fundamentally against teaching the children a bad example. If children behaved in the same way as some teachers, the teachers would expect them to be punished."

Paradoxically, both sides in the dispute claim to recognize the right to work or not to work of the other side, but insist their opponents do not. "I recognize the right of my staff to take action. They should recognize my right to take action", said Mr Mitchell-Lambert.

"The teachers have not done anything wrong" said Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the NAS/UWT. "There has been no incompetence, no unacceptable behaviour. In effect Mr Lambert refuses them the right to take action."

"We fully recognize people's rights to belong to a pacifist union - we won't stop them going to work or acting upon their beliefs. Why the devil can't he do the same for other people? All this could have been prevented."

By taking disciplinary action against the two deputy heads Mr Mitchell-

Lambert has started off down the road to dismissal, explained Mr de Gruchy. "The authority should instruct him to lay off or all NUT and NAS/UWT teachers in Bexley will be called out."

However, Mr Mitchell-Lambert is having a slightly easier time than he did last year. Then he had three teachers on his side. Now 10 staff are helping him keep the school open when both unions call their members out together.

Mr Zdzislaw Wicling, head of social education and ex-NAS/UWT representative, sided with the head. "After last year's pay award was accepted we thought we'd be back to work as normal. But at that point the union decided to prolong action to get back at the head."

He described a shocking picture of sabotage in the school - course work disappearing, completed reports being taken from teachers' pigeon holes, and he sees no easy solution.

Despite the fact that Howbury Grange has kept its doors open for the last year and a half, little else seems to be normal there. Yet in June the school fête took place as usual, organized by the parents, Mr Mitchell-Lambert, and just 10 teachers and raised £1,000.

Unions to consider package worth 7.25% on wage bill

College lecturers nearer Burnham pay settlement

by Diane Spencer

College lecturers will be made an offer next week they might find hard to refuse.

The 76,000-strong National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education is due to negotiate its pay claim in the Burnham Committee on Monday. It will discuss the terms outlined by the management side at 11pm last Friday after 12 hours of talks.

Mr John Pearman, Labour leader of Watfield who chairs the management side, suggested a complex package to the union. Several of its ingredients will be welcomed by lecturers. The deal includes:

- An immediate pay increase of 5 per cent backdated to May 1, not April.
- 2 per cent from November continuing on a joint report on reforms and savings being produced.
- Automatic progression from lecturer 1 to 2 scales - this will remove a career blockage for about 14,000 lecturers - but there will not be a reduction in class contact hours.

In all, the package would add 7.25 per cent to the pay bill by next year, but 5.5 this year as the 5 per cent is not fully backdated to the settlement date of April 1.

The meeting last Friday was the first since the employers' side unilaterally swept away the 20-year-old concordat which gave the Government its block vote and power of the Government its block vote and power of the Government its block vote.

Some members of the union panel might be unhappy with some parts of the package as the annual conference last May resolved not to "trade off" conditions of service for a pay increase. The automatic progression from L1 to L2 has long been sought by NATFHE, but the current proposal does not include a reduction in hours.

Mr Pearman said this week: "I believe it is a very good package for FHE; it removes a blockage towards a settlement and sets up a situation where we can look forward with some optimism to talks on a new structure in which we can iron out a few anomalies."

He thought that NATFHE would not get a better deal and warned that they pushed any further some author-

ities could be seen by other public sector unions as tempting.

Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of NATFHE, said the deal will be considered in the context of the general bargaining position in the public sector, including the teachers, and in the light of the needs of the further and higher education service.

He was pleased that, after four months, the management had come up with a detailed offer which included the principle of progression from L1 to L2. But there were still some difficulties.

Obviously, Monday's meeting will be affected by what happened at the Burnham meeting on teachers' pay yesterday. But there is no reason why their teachers' colleagues. They have, done it before. However, last year, the union came unstuck when its leaders accepted a deal before the teachers and their members threw it out.

The employers are hoping the package can be paid for out of savings under the restructuring proposals contained in the deal.

Both sides will, if it is agreed, consider savings on remuneration, systematic overtime (which the union opposes anyway) and refreshment breaks. This should also please the Audit Commission.

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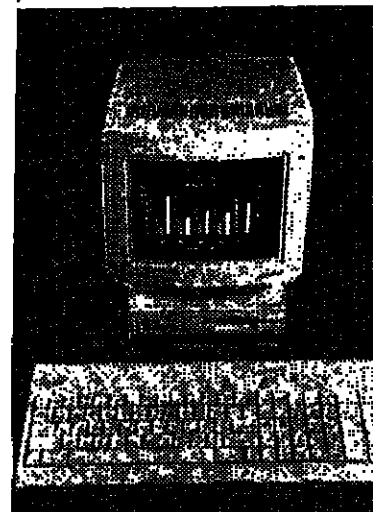
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Work with under-3s 'very valuable'

by Sarah Bayliss

Teachers, nursery nurses, child minders and other staff who work with the under-threes should not consider themselves as inferior mother substitutes. They have a different but very valuable role to play with young children, according to Professor Barbara Tizard, from London University.

Addressing the seventh annual general meeting of the Voluntary Organizations' Professor Tizard said where relationships were strong and stable - characterized by "familiarity, responsiveness and attachment" - staff could become a valuable part of every child's social network.

She said the morale of those working with the very young could be transformed if they were made aware of the

research evidence from developmental psychology which had been produced over the past 10 years.

These results showed that children under three were capable of sustaining and benefiting from a wide range of social contacts including relationships with their peers, siblings, fathers and other adults apart from their mothers. The exclusivity of the mother-child relationship and the idea that any separation from the mother was no longer valid.

These networks did not appear to disrupt the mother-child relationship and they appeared to lead to increased cognitive development.

There were strong implications for social policy - given that there were

"clear potential benefits" for young children from being part of an extensive network.

For example, the staff in day care facilities should have clear responsibility for particular children and groups of children should be kept as small as possible so they and adults could get to know each other well.

Staff turnover and sickness should be kept as low as possible and research should be carried out to establish the reasons behind high rates of turnover which exist in some child care facilities.

The debate about child care should not put child minders against nurseries, but should ask instead about the quality of the relationships.

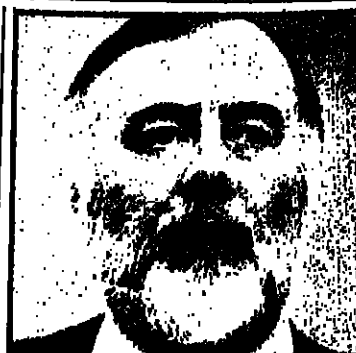
During a discussion, Dr Duncan Dolton, a consultant to the National

Nursery Examination Board, said that a new in-service course had just been approved by the board, to be run nationwide in 30 colleges to improve the skills of nursery nurses.

One fifth of the course members would not be required to be trained nursery nurses and he hoped that child minders and other under-fives workers would be encouraged to study.

The course, which would start in September 1986, had been tried successfully in 12 colleges and would run for two years, one day a week.

It is intended to meet the criticism that nursery nurses are sometimes too young and undertrained to cope with the sophisticated problems of children and families which they meet in the course of their work.



Appointment causes row

A row has erupted in the London borough of Brent over the appointment of a white teacher to the headship of a primary school.

Labour councillors claim that Mr Kenneth Gaw - a man of Chinese origin - should have been selected for the post at Malorees school instead of Mrs Pam Thomas, the present deputy head.

The education committee will meet next Monday to reconsider the appointment although a subcommittee has already endorsed the original decision. A meeting held on July 1 broke up in disarray.

Mr Arthur Steel, Conservative chairman of the education committee who chaired the appointments panel, gave his casting vote to Mrs Thomas because "she could pick up the baton left by the previous head."

During his summing up Mr Steel was accused of making a racist remark by Labour councillor, Mr Mike Morgan, who said that Mrs Thomas was a "white woman" and that Mr Gaw was a "Chinese man".

ILEA to recruit more nursery staff

Dear old nanny...

Like Mrs Thatcher 10 years ago, Baroness Cox has given warm support to the "old-fashioned nanny".

The opportunity arose while she was answering a question in the House of Lords last week about whether society's recognition of the training provided by the National Nursery Examination Board was adequate.

Lady Cox, herself a former state-registered nurse, side-stepped that issue, although she said the training was "very good".

All this talk of training and qualifications was clearly too much for the 87-year-old Labour peer, Lord Leathers. Did the noble Baroness think there was still something to be said for the old-fashioned nanny? he asked.

Lord Leathers, the former Conservative

The Inner London Education Authority is stepping up its recruitment campaign for nursery teachers in an effort to combat a national shortage.

The authority is asking nursery teachers who have recently left their jobs if they are interested in returning to a permanent post. Former teachers are also being offered casual supply teaching.

The authority has more than 20,000 children in its nursery schools and classes and has a policy to provide a place for every child whose parents want it. It employs 662 nursery teachers - 40 per cent of all those employed in England.

Mrs Ruth Gee, deputy leader of the

Townsend primary school in south east London recently, said she was concerned by the national shortage of trained staff. Quoting Department of Education statistics, she said the number of students following full-time courses for nursery education fell from 321 in November 1981 to 261 in 1983.

"On the basis of these figures, we estimate that for the next two years at least, the number of newly-qualified nursery teachers leaving college will fall below 100 to approximately 70 or 80 each year."

ILEA estimates an annual turnover rate of 12 per cent among nursery teachers - marginally higher than for other teachers, which is partly explained by their young age profile. It

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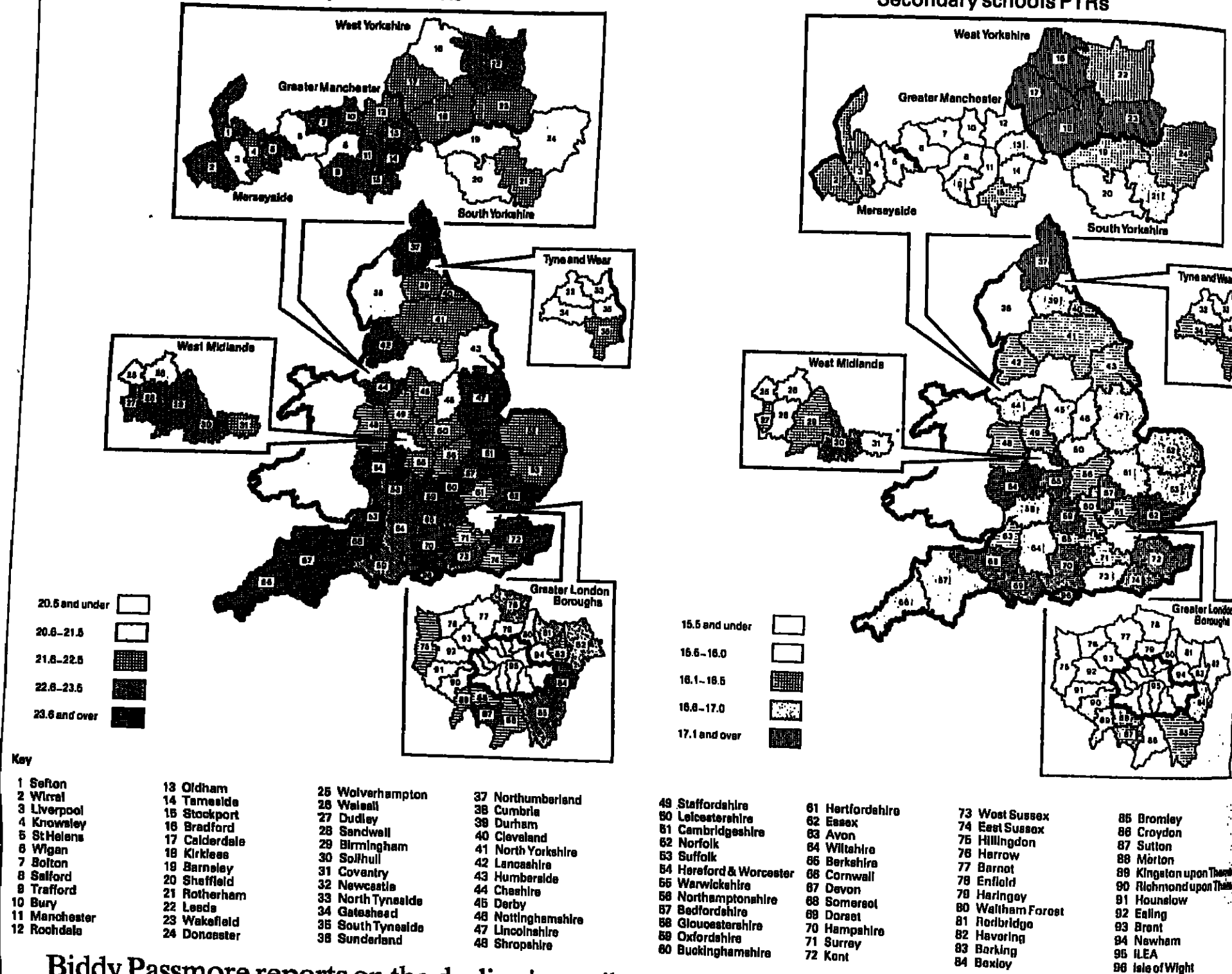
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Special Schools 24

...and more on pages 24-25

PUPIL-TEACHER RATIOS IN LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND

Primary schools PTRs

Secondary schools PTRs



Biddy Passmore reports on the decline in pupil numbers which is outstripping the drop in teachers.

DES statistics indicate improved class ratios

Pupil-teacher ratios in England continued to improve last year, because pupil numbers were still falling at a faster rate nationally than the reduction in the teaching force.

Latest figures from the Department of Education and Science show that in 1984, the number of teachers in service fell by about 1 per cent (4,100), while the number of pupils dropped by nearly 2.5 per cent, resulting in an improvement in the pupil-teacher ratio from 18.1:1 to 17.9:1.

As the table shows, the improvement took place in nursery as well as primary and secondary schools.

But these ratios are, of course, simply the number of teachers divided by the number of pupils, and give little idea of what is actually to be found in classrooms. Mr Bob Dunn, the schools minister, told the Commons recently that the average size of classes in January 1984 was 24.7 in primary schools (compared with a pupil-teacher ratio of 22.1:1) and 20.4 in secondary schools (compared with a ratio of 16.2:1).

Moreover, figures published last summer by the DES showed that one in five pupils were still being taught in classes of more than 30 in 1983.

Once again, this year's maps of pupil-teacher ratios show the most generous staffing ratios concentrated in the north east and London, with some exceptions such as the Tory and Labour controlled London boroughs of Bexley and Sutton. The Inner London Education Authority has the smallest number of pupils per teacher in both primary and secondary schools.

The worst ratios are concentrated in the shire counties, such as Somerset, Hereford and Worcester, and Kent.

But it can be misleading to make direct comparisons between author-

Pupil teacher ratios in maintained schools in England

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Nursery	19.8	19.7	19.3	20.1	19.3
Primary - raw	22.7	22.6	22.5	22.3	22.1
Primary - adjusted	22.6	22.5	22.5	22.3	22.1
Secondary - raw	16.8	16.8	16.6	16.5	16.2
Secondary - adjusted	16.6	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.2
Overall	18.7	18.6	18.5	18.1	17.9

ities because the figures may be distorted by factors like the existence of middle schools or tertiary colleges, or high staying-on rates.

For instance, of the four shire counties with the "worst" primary ratios - Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hereford and Worcester and Lincolnshire - all but Essex have middle schools.

For the first time, the DES has adjusted the national ratios to allow for changes over time in the distribution of pupils by age and type of school.

The effect of the adjustment (see table) is to show that some of the apparent improvement since 1980 is accounted for by an increase in the average age of pupils and their proportion in comprehensive schools, which tend to require smaller teaching groups than other schools to cater for the wide spread of ability.

Statistical Bulletin 785 is available from the Statistics Branch, DES, 25, Whitehall, House, York Road, London SE1 7PH.

Arabic teaching plans attacked

Plans by a London University college to contract out some of its teaching of Arabic to a private company have been strongly attacked by the Association of University Teachers.

The School of Oriental and African Studies is understood to be negotiating an agreement with Arabic Services Ltd. Under the agreement, the company would move into the school in September and teach its external students - diplomats and company executives - on crash language courses.

Fee income would be divided between the company and the school.

Details of the plans, which were reported in *The Times* last week, brought an angry response from Mr Malcolm Keight, London Regional Official of the AUT. He took issue with what he took to be an innuendo by Arabic Services Ltd, that the school's Arabic staff were neither suited nor motivated to teach the language.

In a letter to Professor Charles Cowan, director of SOAS, Mr Keight said: "I cannot accept that the teaching of languages which are not available below degree level is within the scope of abilities of SOAS staff."

A London University statement acknowledged that negotiations were taking place but said any agreement would cover post-experience training courses, not undergraduate teaching as *The Times* report had implied.

'Keep applying' women urged

by Diane Spencer

Two women who have made it to the top of their profession have urged women teachers to "keep on applying" for better jobs just as their male colleagues do.

Both Miss Sheila Browne, former senior chief inspector, and Miss Isabel Shepherdson, lately the head of Kidbrooke comprehensive school, inner London, claimed that women were quickly deterred by rejection. But men apply again and again.

They were addressing a workshop organized on behalf of the National Development Centre for School Management Training by a group of women academics from Hull and Grimsby.

Miss Shepherdson said: "Don't underestimate yourselves. The men on my staff would return from an interview saying: 'They asked the wrong questions'; a woman would say: 'I made a mess of the interview'. So apply, apply, apply."

Miss Browne found it worrying that in Britain women were thought only fit to manage girls and young children. The French thought otherwise: 40 per cent of heads of mainly mixed secondary schools in France are women, but in England only 2 per cent achieved that distinction.

She also noted that educational administration seemed to be "pretty impregnable" at the top: at one time there were two women chief education officers. Now there were none.

Although she did not favour positive discrimination, it was not against the

law to encourage the right women to apply for jobs.

Teacher appraisal, either through the authority or school-based, should also help to improve the promotion prospects of women into management roles. Limited tenure of certain posts in schools would spread opportunities among staff.

When Kidbrooke, the first purpose-built comprehensive in the inner London Education Authority, decided to take in boys in 1980, Miss Shepherdson said her staff had been faced with a major re-think.

Although they did not need to change the curriculum and syllabus they had to change their attitudes. To her horror she discovered that she had spent 60 per cent of class time in a carefully monitored lesson answering boys' questions although they constituted only one-third of the number of pupils.

"We need to learn how to teach mixed classes in initial teacher training, just as we have to learn how to teach mixed ability," she said. She was unhappy to discover that careers' advice for girls differed from that for boys. If a girl said she wanted to be a doctor she would be told of all the problems first. A boy would be given the list of exams he needed to pass. "We were building a six-foot fence out of a three-foot wall."

But she warned against stereotyping boys in the same way as girls were the victims of stereotyping. And she thought there was a danger in teachers thinking that boys' activities are more important than girls'.

The Equal Opportunities Commission was forced to provide careers advice for girls seeking science and engineering jobs when the interest generated by their WISE '84 promotion was not met elsewhere.

"It is significant that so many girls felt unable to approach those people whose job it is to produce advice - careers teachers, advisers and representatives from further education/higher education and industry," the Commission's report for 1984 says.

Ninth Annual Report 1984 Equal Opportunities Commission. £4.95. BOC, Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN.



Sheila Browne: encouragement



All a flutter: Butterfly enthusiasts at Shakespeare County Junior school help their teacher, Lynn Hargreaves, under a glass dome between two sets of classrooms where the collection is housed. The county planning department agreed to fund the scheme for its educational value. Children gain a better understanding of conservation with a special emphasis on the life cycle of a butterfly.

School bus Bill goes into reverse

A Conservative back-bencher has introduced a Bill which aims to sort out the muddle on school transport left by a Government defeat in the House of Lords five years ago.

Mr Patrick Nicholson, MP for Teinbridge, who introduced the Bill last week with the support of a Liberal and Labour back-bencher, later had to withdraw it for lack of Parliamentary time. But he said he was "not unhappy" that such a Bill might succeed next session.

The Bill would require local education authorities to pay the transport costs of children whose parents had opted for a school other than the one chosen by the L.E.A., provided the school was more than three miles away but not in a neighbouring authority.

It would thus strengthen parents' right, under the 1980 Act, to have their child educated in the school of their choice. At present, some councils will only provide free transport to schools to which they allocate children.

Education ministers are known to be sympathetic to the Bill's aims but worried about placing an extra financial burden on L.E.A.s.

Privatization less popular

by Mike Durham

A new survey suggests that despite Government plans to force local authorities to put services out to private tender, the idea is becoming less popular.

Only five local authorities have privatized any part of their education service since April, 1984, according to the survey carried out by *Local Government Chronicle*.

And overall, privatization is probably slightly less often considered now than it was two years ago, the survey concludes.

Two councils - Solihull and Cambridgeshire - have privatized parts of their school cleaning in the past year and the London Borough of Hillingdon is considering doing so. Lincoln-

shire looked at and rejected the idea. Solihull embarked on an experiment involving six secondary schools and a sixth form college. After five months, work at one of the schools and the college were handed back to the council because of complaints.

The council anticipated savings of £75,000 on the scheme and is considering extending it.

In Cambridgeshire, savings of £720,000 were expected and 1,200 cleaners were laid off, most of whom were re-employed by private firms. The three L.E.A.s to newly privatize their school meals service last year - Hereford and Worcester, Ealing and Richmond - laid off large numbers of staff or revised their working hours.

Paper waits for Gillick result

Publication of the HMI paper on health education is to be delayed until the outcome of the Gillick case is known.

The paper, which is in the HMI series, *Curriculum matters*, was to have been published this summer, but will not now be out until the autumn.

The verdict will have some bearing on the content of the paper and it will be a waste of time and money to produce the booklet and then be

forced to correct it," a DES spokesman commented.

The Department of Health is seeking to overturn a Court Appeal ruling won by Mrs Victoria Gillick. The ruling makes it illegal for doctors to prescribe contraceptives to under-age girls without their parents' consent.

The House of Lords' decision on the appeal is not expected before the start of the next law term in October.

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1986	1987	1988	1989
Art, Design and Craft*	Accounting*	Accounting	History A
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Chemistry A*	Art, Design and Craft*	Art, Design and Craft	History C
Chemistry B*	Biological Science A*	Biological Science	History D
Computer Studies*	Biological Science B*	Biological Science	Home Economics: Child Development
Electronics*	British Government & Politics*	British Government & Politics	Home Economics: Food
Environmental Studies*	Chemistry A*	Chemistry A	Home Economics: Textiles
General Multiple Knowledge*	Chemistry B*	Chemistry B	Human Biology
Geography A*	Commerce*	Commerce	Italian
Geography B*	Computer Studies*	Computer Studies	Law
History A*	CDT: Design and Realisation*	CDT: Design and Realisation	Mathematics
History B*	Drugs A*	Drugs A	Mathematics and Oceanography
History C*	Drugs B*	Drugs B	Modern Studies
History D*	Economics*	Economics	Music
Human Biology*	English Literature	English Literature	Navigation
Human Geography*	Environmental Studies*	Environmental Studies	Office Skills
Humanities*	General Multiple Knowledge*	General Multiple Knowledge	Photography
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Mathematics and Oceanography*	Geography B*	Geography B	Physics A
Modern Studies*	Geography C*	Geography C	Physics B
Physics A*	Geography D*	Geography D	Physics C
Physics B*	History A*	History A	Religious Studies A
Physics C*	History B*	History B	Religious Studies B
Physics D*	History C*	History C	Russian
Science*	History D*	History D	Science (Integrated)
Technology*	Home Economics: Food*	Home Economics: Food	Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry)
	Home Economics: Textiles*	Home Economics: Textiles	Double Certificate
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	Home Economics: Food and the Community*	Home Economics: Food and the Community	Spanish
	Home Economics: Textiles and the Community*	Home Economics: Textiles and the Community	Statistics
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	Home Economics: Textiles and the Community*	Home Economics: Textiles and the Community	Typewriting
	Home Economics: Food and the Community*	Home Economics: Food and the Community	Latin
	Home Economics: Textiles and the Community*	Home Economics: Textiles and the Community	

Bigger YTS role for careers staff

A bigger role for the local authority careers service in the new, two-year version of the Youth Training Scheme is envisaged by senior Manpower Services Commission officials currently drawing up plans for its operation.

They believe that each trainee's YTS programme needs to be tailored to previous education, future learning and career plans.

Mr Ken Atkinson, director of the YTS, agrees that the Commission's own staff is unlikely to be able to assess each trainee and identify an appropriate placement and training programme. He suggests that the careers service is best suited for the job.

Under the existing scheme local authority careers departments place trainees in Mode B schemes - run mainly by public and voluntary bodies - and put forward trainees for employer-run schemes.

Although employers can recruit for the YTS directly, most are only too glad to leave it to the service. But the majority of the country's careers departments are now fully stretched by the demands of the scheme.

In some places, careers officers say they are finding difficulty in providing vocational guidance to school pupils - particularly as they now try to do more to help adults.

They recognize they are the people best fitted to link school work with the YTS, but cannot see how they could undertake the detailed assessment of 500,000 YTS entrants without considerable expansion of the service.

Mr Ray Hurst, secretary of the Institute of Careers Officers, said this week: "I am very glad to hear that the MSC's senior people are aware of the need to make the link between what

happens in the last two years at school and YTS placement. The Commission's recommendations to the Employment Secretary made no specific reference to this key requirement. But if we are going to do the assessment properly we shall certainly need more resources."

The special working group of college principals and industrial trainers which advised the MSC on training objectives and content for the two-year YTS say in their final report: "Initial assessment will assume greater significance in a two-year programme where there is greater need for a design which is realistic and challenging to the perceived capabilities of the trainee."

They emphasize that managing agents will need to set specific objectives to help careers agencies and trainees select the right schemes.

The working group come out strongly against making the whole of the two-year programme narrow training for one job. They recommend that specific vocational training should be given in the second year, following foundation training.

They also say that extension of the scheme will mean that trainees will need guidance, reviewing and continual assessment. The group suggests that the MSC should give managing agents more guidance on participative learning, which they say is not widely understood or used in the present scheme.

Their report makes clear that all trainees should get a chance to attain a recognized vocational qualification - an objective now endorsed by the Government. This means an award issued by "a recognized national, regional, or local body."



Detailed assessment of 500,000 YTS trainees would require a considerable expansion of the careers service.

The group added that the award should be recognized by industry and employers as being relevant, indicate an ability to perform competently in the workplace, and be of help in getting a job or entry to further education or training.

The group sees existing vocational awards as one component in an overall scheme of YTS certification. They believe that the certificate should record both educational achievement and occupational competence, and should itself be recognized as part of the national framework of vocational qualifications.

A modular system of accreditation is proposed, based on modules of occupational competence. The idea is that groups of modules would become recognized as qualifications for entry into employment or into further education and training. They would

confer "occupational status" say the group - presumably as an alternative to conventional apprenticeship in some occupations or existing college courses in others.

The group hope that such a modular system would not remain confined to YTS. They recommend that the MSC should encourage industry bodies to get together with the examining boards to start developing the modules. At the same time, they suggest that the industry bodies should be encouraged to draw up model schemes of initial skills training, but that these should not be imposed on managing agents.

The report makes clear that there were strong disagreements in the working party, as in the main group which drew up the overall arrangements for funding and administering the scheme. The dispute centred on what the prescribed minimum off-the-job training should be.

The educationists wanted 13 weeks in each of the two years, saying that anything less would be downgrading the scheme. In any case, they said, the YTS needed to cater for the increasing knowledge content of many jobs.

Others argued that off-the-job training was unpopular with the trainees and devalued on-job learning; and that what trainees needed most in their second year, was the consolidation of their work experience.

In the end, the group settled for a minimum period for each of the two years, but decided not to stipulate what it should be.

Edited by
Mark Jackson

Conference promises to be highly controversial

Careers officers are expecting the annual conference to be spectacularly controversial this year. The Institute of Careers Officers has lined up a range of prominent speakers with starkly contrasting views on employment, education, and the Government's policies on youth unemployment and training.

Mr Bryan Nicholson, the Manpower Services Commission's chairman, will also speak during the three-day conference in Middlesbrough in September. The Institute of Careers Officers conference is usually a sober occasion, with ministerial guests being accorded a worst, polite applause and most other speakers selected for their professional expertise rather than their rhetoric.

Last year a lot of the younger delegates came away saying that there had been hardly an issue in sight. Mr Ray Hurst, who is retiring after 12 years as the institute's honorary secretary, said that this year they had deliberately chosen a broad and controversial field of discussion - educational, economic and social aspects of the careers service in relation to young people, their parents, and employers.



Finding no tennis enthusiast on a school's staff is a great obstacle to the promotion of the sport by the Lawn Tennis Foundation.

Courting success for junior tennis

by Frances Ratchford

Blue skies, strawberries and the gentle clack of ball against racquet: a very British scene - that is, until you get to centre court at Wimbledon.

This year, yet again, American, Swedish, German and French players got to the finals, but not British players. The question is why, when we have the finest court, don't we produce the finest players?

The situation was summed up recently by Mr Ray Moore, president of the Association of Tennis Professionals. "You don't lack finance, Wimbledon gives two million each year, I know countries who would die for that kind of money. It's not the weather, Sweden has much worse weather, yet they have five players in the top 100. And it's not facilities, I see empty courts wherever I go. You have to have the right system."

Certainly tennis at junior level has been a different system from most other major sports until five years ago. In soccer, rugby and cricket for instance, it is the schools' governing body which is responsible for the whole of the junior side of the game. In tennis, responsibility was dispersed among the counties and regions - until 1980 when the British Schools LTA was formed.

This group was reorganized last year with a new committee of mainly practising teachers, who build up a flow of funds from the Lawn Tennis Association and a professional admin-

istration which will be carried out by the Lawn Tennis Foundation. Mr Jim Coates, manager of the foundation, will act as executive officer of the schools' association.

He has had a big hand in organizing the LTA junior coaching scheme, which has 100 tennis centres in local parks for any child who wants to have a go. By next year, over 500 tennis centres should be available, all heavily-sponsored by Prudential.

But Jim Coates wants to focus on schools: "I have several targets in view - selling the game to schools, finding a way round the great obstacle of no tennis enthusiasts on the staff and, above all, establishing a strong base of school tennis in every county with the emphasis not on national but on local tournaments. The Dorset County Schools Tennis Association has already shown the way."

The LTA coaching scheme has had a few successes. Amanda Brown, a qualifier at Wimbledon, and Dany Sapsford, who's won at least three Under-16s tournaments so far.

Another drawback has been the physical demands of the game. Children under 10 find racquets too unwieldy and courts too big.

Sweden, home of Bjorn Borg, came up with the answer: short tennis. It's played on smaller courts with short plastic racquets and light foam rubber balls.

Mr Brian Blincoe, director of National Development, said of short

tennis: "It seems to have broken the mould of children learning to play only the sort of tennis their parents played. They become skilful players very quickly."

Other LTA schemes are aimed at schools. These include teaching and activity notes and an award similar to the BAGA scheme for gymnastics. The LTA is concerned that tennis is neglected in favour of team sports.

Its motto seems to be catch 'em young before they get hooked on other sports. Perhaps they're right. After all, Boris Becker, this year's Wimbledon champion, would have been a serious soccer player if he hadn't chosen tennis at 12.

The association has also started to tackle ways to help gifted young players. Last year, it opened a tennis school at Bisham Abbey. It is run along the lines of the Royal Ballet and Yehudi Menuhin schools.

The day for Colin Beecher, Seb Jackson, Uli Nganga and Nick Smith, (only boys are at the school) begins at 7 am with a run, breakfast, and then normal classes at local schools. By 4 pm they're back and coached in tennis until supper.

Mr Derek Bone, who is in charge of the school, admits it is a disciplined life. "They've got to practise a couple of hours every day. Like young musicians or dancers, they build up skill when they're given facilities and encouragement to train."

OVERSEAS

Reforming the dreaded 'maturita'

It is exam time in Italy and of the two million students taking leaving exams of one level or another, attention this year is focused on the one-quarter upper-secondary leavers taking the much-dreaded *maturita*.

Made up of written and oral tests which were streamlined in a 1968 reform, the evaluational axis of the *maturita* is still the Italian composition exam which, according to some, has become "the art of empty discourse".

Agree that the exam rewards those few with good factual retention and a knack with words, but punishes the many who are left to stich a theme together with the threads of their "personal considerations".

Italy's *maturita* is now undergoing a second reform but not, it seems, the Italian composition exam which no one is happy with.

The dissatisfaction stems from the fact that though some teachers take the initiative of instructing their classes in creative and expository writing during the year, because it is not on the curriculum, the final exam itself is evaluated according to the requirements of 16th century rhetoric: a composition is deemed good when a concept is expressed in two simple sentences - "amplified" (after six hours) and "developed" (after six hours).

Italy's *maturita* is now undergoing a second reform but not, it seems, the Italian composition exam which no one is happy with.

Rita di Giuseppe

CHINA

A new State Commission looks set to put education in the front seat of Peking's drive for modernization.

Peter Mauger reports.

China has announced the replacement of its Ministry of Education by a State Education Commission. The move follows months of nationwide discussion - culminating in a National Education Work Conference.

The conference stressed that better education holds the key to the success or failure of China's plans for modernization.

Wan Li, a vice-premier and leading party member said at the conference: "Holding education in contempt is still a fairly common phenomenon. Some comrades are very much concerned with industrial growth and they are highly enthusiastic about construction of office buildings, but they pay little attention to education."

Chinese premier Deng Xiaoping attended the conference, underlining the importance now given to reform. He said that China's economy could approach the level of the developed nations by the century of the People's Republic (2049). "The quality of our workers and the quality of our intellectuals have become increasingly important in deter-

Another Great Leap Forward?



A compulsory nine-year school system is the first step. At present, only two-thirds of the 12 to 15-year-olds can be offered places in junior schools.

mining whether our nation is strong or weak," he said. "If a huge nation with one billion people could boost its education, its tremendous superiority in human resources would never be matched by any other country."

Plans for reform drawn up at the conference include:

- A compulsory nine-year system: Some 95 per cent of children attend the primary school stage, from six to 12 years of age. There are places for only about two-thirds of them in junior middle schools (12 to 15). Twelve-year-olds in rural areas go to work.

- Teacher training schools and colleges: At present teaching is not a popular career and improvements in working conditions and pay are needed.

- Vocational and technical education: Of the eight grades of workers' wages, based on technical skill, 70 per cent are

Ombudsmen want increased powers to investigate 'internal' school matters

L.e.a.s still loath to accept new rights of parents

by Biddy Passmore

Local education authorities are still finding it hard to accept that their duty is now to let children go to the school their parents want, even if that conflicts with their admissions policy, the latest annual report by the three local Ombudsmen says.

Mr Frederick Laws, the Ombudsman for the South, West, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, and the West Midlands, says: "L.e.a.s decide their admissions policy and if the parents' choice does not fall within the dictates of that policy the parents' choice is rejected. Few education authorities seem to consider whether to give effect to a particular choice would in practical terms prejudice the efficient provision of education notwithstanding their general policy."

The other point which concerns him, he says, is authorities' failure to give proper reasons for refusing the parents' choice instead of simply quoting the relevant sub-section of Section 6 of the 1980 Act.

Complaints against local authorities rose by 12 per cent to 3,389, in the year ended March 31, 1985, the report says. Education was the third greatest source of complaint, with 221, well behind housing and planning.

The educational cases where the Ombudsman found an authority guilty of maladministration included: the failure of an appeal committee to follow its published admissions policy; failure to provide the correct information about fees for a course at a further education college; and failure to give reasons for refusing help with boarding school costs to a gifted child.

The Ombudsmen repeat their pleas for a thorough overhaul of the system to give them more powers, such as the power to investigate on their own

initiative. They also want to see fewer restrictions on the matters they may investigate so that they could, for instance, deal with complaints about "internal" school matters, such as conduct and discipline.

Only two weeks ago, Mr Laws found Berkshire County Council guilty of maladministration causing injustice because their appeals procedure failed to deal properly with allocations to Reading Grammar School.

A boy had been refused a place at the school because, although he had been assessed as suitable for a grammar school education, the quota to be admitted from his primary school had already been filled.

He and three other boys with equally good claims to places at the school were refused because of the quota system - even though there were two spare places and two boys with less good claims had already been allowed in. The council maintained that it would "prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources" to choose between them - a line of argument which the Ombudsman found unacceptable.

When the case came to appeal, the appeal committee took the view that the number of places available was irrelevant to their deliberations - and started to consider fresh candidates' suitability for selective education, even though this had already been established. Mr Laws said they were wrong on both counts and that the appeals proceedings therefore gave rise to injustice.

Copies of the annual report can be obtained from 21 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BU, or 29 Castlegate, York YO1 1RN.

MSC call for new curricula

New curricula are required in education in order to lay the foundations for economic growth, Mr Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, said this week. He forecast that the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative would spread through the whole education system.

Mr Nicholson told the National Education and Training Conference at Birmingham on Tuesday that only 3 per cent of Britain's pupils - around 21,000 - and 8 per cent of the schools were currently in the TVEI. By the end of this month, however, nearly every local authority would either be running projects or could expect to have their bids approved.

"As a result, I expect a cascade effect to follow, with the influence of TVEI pervading the whole education system. The influence will be beneficial and permanent," he said.

In further education the MSC and the local authorities had agreed that the money now being channelled through the Commission would be used to support changes in provision. L.e.a.s would prepare, within rolling three-year development plans, detailed plans for each year, drawn up in consultation with employers, unions, and the MSC.

Mr Nicholson warned the conference that the vocational education and training system "relevance and availability of offerings, and the quality of the outcome, must come before the convenience of the providers and institutions."

Mr Nicholson said that he was "very excited" that the Employment Secretary had announced his acceptance of the MSC's recommendations for a two-year Youth Training Scheme. He added: "I believe that the scheme will be seen and accepted by the nation as an important, essential, part of a continuous pattern of development from school, through the hopeful years of youth, on to the more mature, even advanced ages of adult working life."

Earlier in his speech, Mr Nicholson said that the consensus basis on which the MSC operated meant that, by and large, its principles were accepted by society. "The MSC's approach is based on a consensus basis, and it is this which has enabled us to achieve what we have achieved."

Jobless home in on New Openings

by Iola Smith



Away from the dole queue: just one of the activities offered at New Openings.

Unemployed people of 16 and above are being offered the widest range of recreational and educational courses available in Britain at the New Openings project in South Glamorgan, according to its founder.

The project, started three years ago, and funded by Glamorgan County Council, Cardiff City Council and the MSC, is offering the jobless courses in subjects which range from basic literacy to sailing.

Run by 58 staff recruited from the dole queue, the project attracts as many as 250 people a week for courses in skills which will be valuable in the job market.

At one end of the scale, the project offers courses in reading, writing and spelling, while at the other a writers' workshop has been set up so young people can write creatively about their experiences. Facilities are also available for ethnic minorities in conversational English and English as a second language. Similarly, New Openings runs classes in French, Spanish and German.

Mr Tony Richards, who instigated the project, says: "It's not our intention to compete with existing services. When participants are sufficiently skilled in a language we encourage them to further their studies either at college or by attending evening classes."

Fifteen members of the typing course have found work and those studying

word-processing and book-binding are now more confident about their employment prospects.

The project, says Mr Richards, initially only offered recreational courses, but 18 months ago the MSC encouraged its diversification in the education field. However, the recreational courses offered have an

educational aspect; sailing is a component of the carpentry class, and playing in a rock group is one of the activities offered by the music workshop.

Making itself felt, New Openings publishes its fortnightly *New Open Times*, and the video making workshop is recording local entertainments and news with a view to establishing a

distribution network. Mr Tony Richards believes the project works because it avoids the pitfall of over-use and under-staffing experienced by most other centres for unemployed people, which adopt a "drop-in" approach. In Cardiff participants are encouraged to stay the course instead of walking in or out at will.

CPVE chance for guidance teachers

by Owen Surridge

The Certificate of Pre-vocational Education will give careers teachers their greatest opportunity yet to influence their colleagues and the development of the curriculum, it was claimed last week.

Joyce Richards, senior lecturer at Garnett College, London, told a meeting of the National Association of Careers and Guidance Teachers that its members in schools and colleges should get their heads together soon. "The Joint Board for Pre-vocational Education is saying in effect 'work it out' for yourself, so it is up to us to say what we will, or will not, do."

John Shirley, development officer at the Further Education Unit, pointed

out that the CPVE, which is also known as the 17-plus, would give careers and guidance staff more power than they have ever had before "providing they get to grips with the language."

It was up to careers and guidance teachers to work out exactly what the CPVE requirements were, she said. "The blue book is complete but untested. It is important for careers people to get in there and get their two pence worth."

She feared careers staff built into CPVE choices could get lost if the careers teachers were not effective. Moreover, the new requirement for

self-awareness and self-assessment but a lot of teachers will find it difficult to review profiles in pupils," she said. Careers teachers could help colleagues see the advantages of profiling, not least that the continuous assessment meant the end of the annual chore of preparing long reports.

● The CPVE is a one-year course aimed at what used to be known as the "new sixth", the 100,000 or so pupils who wish to stay on at school or take a full-time college course but do not want to take A levels or a purely vocational course. It will become available on a part-time basis in September 1986.

Mr Shirley said that the CPVE was a "new sixth", the 100,000 or so pupils who wish to stay on at school or take a full-time college course but do not want to take A levels or a purely vocational course. It will become available on a part-time basis in September 1986.

Funding fears

A former Manpower Services Commission official said this week that the Government is threatening the Youth Training Scheme by refusing to fund the new two-year scheme properly.

Mr Mick Farley, who recently left the Commission's quality control branch to become a senior adviser to Sheffield's education department, was at a careers' conference in the city on Monday that the YTS was "hopelessly underfunded. The cash made available by the Government for two years is roughly £1 billion - the amount normally set aside for one year, but the YTS is not the Government's first priority."

Mr Farley said that the YTS was "hopelessly underfunded. The cash made available by the Government for two years is roughly £1 billion - the amount normally set aside for one year, but the YTS is not the Government's first priority."

First the good news and then the bad ...

The American public would like to see teachers paid more highly, even if that means an increase in taxes, last week's annual conference of the National Education Association was told.

The association had commissioned a Gallup poll which showed that 57 per cent of those surveyed believed their local schools were having trouble in attracting good teachers, and that low pay was the root of the problem. Only 8 per cent flatly opposed spending more money on schools.

All this was music to the ears of the NEA president, Ms Mary Hatwood Futrell, who opened the conference with a warning that the education reform movement would hit a dead end unless steps were taken to make teaching more attractive, particularly to the young.

Pay for American teachers, now averaging \$24,000 (£18,500) a year, has doubled over the past decade. Increases this year have averaged 7.3 per cent for elementary and secondary teachers, which is well above the rate of inflation.

Ms Futrell, however, claimed that this was not enough. The \$24,000 level, she said, was where the pay scale should start. At present, the average starting salary for teachers is around \$15,000.

But the opinion poll also had some bad news for its sponsors. Americans, it seems, rather like the idea of competency testing for teachers already in jobs - in addition to the professional examinations for new teachers which has just gained the NEA's rather belated support.

Competency testing is anathema to the association, which has been fighting tooth and claw over the examinations given to 28,000 teachers in Arkansas two months ago. The results of those examinations are now out, and show a 10 per cent failure rate.

This, Ms Futrell told the conference, did not adequately reflect the ability of public school teachers in Arkansas, and she announced that the NEA intended to sue the state on the grounds that the test was biased. The association has already lost one legal battle on the issue.

UNITED STATES

Bill Norris on the opinion poll that proved a mixed blessing for America's biggest teaching union

The new argument is likely to be based on a law which prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, colour, religion, sex or racial origin. The results of the Arkansas tests showed that the highest scores were recorded in predominantly white parts of the state, while the mainly black counties of southern and eastern Arkansas had the lowest. In one of the latter, 34.5 per cent of the teachers failed.

One of the main themes of Ms Futrell's speech was an attempt to reach some form of rapprochement with the Reagan Administration, after being a thorn in its side for the past four years. The union has battled with the White House over Mr Reagan's plans for merit pay, school prayer, tuition tax credits and vouchers for parents of private school students.

Most recently, it has been threatening to "pull out all the stops" in opposition to the President's plans for tax reform, which it believes will harm public education.

There is no sign that any of these attitudes have changed, but Ms Futrell eased up on her criticism long enough to ask Mr Reagan to "join the NEA".

She said: "Mr President, we have disagreed with you in the past, and we undoubtedly will disagree with you in the future. But, as the Bible tells us, there is a time to rend and a time to heal. Join us, for the children's sake, and let us work together for the public schools America needs."

Mr Reagan, who has had other things on his mind lately, has yet to respond to this olive branch. However, the Education Secretary, Mr William Bennett, has gone on record as saying that he finds Ms Futrell's endorsement of tough exams for teachers "very encouraging". Two years ago, Mr Bennett was describing the NEA as



Star spangled classroom: American teachers get public support for more pay

"the most baneful influence on American education", so things are improving.

But Mr Bennett could not resist the sly comment that the NEA seemed to be undergoing an identity crisis, and was trying to decide what it was going to be. He claimed the leadership of the union had always been more liberal than its members, and hoped that it would now begin to reflect their views. "It would be good for the NEA to get into education in a serious way," he remarked.

The Secretary may have overestimated the conservatism of the membership: they cut short the second day of their conference to send 2,000 delegates to an anti-apartheid demonstration outside the South African Embassy, where 59 of them volunteered to cross police lines and face arrest.

But to offset this, they did refuse to endorse a consumer boycott in support of a labour dispute against the Campbell soup company. In the past, delegates have supported a host of liberal causes, from a nuclear freeze to the equal rights amendment. Their vote against the boycott may signal a new resistance to straying too far outside

the educational arena.

They certainly seemed anxious to answer right-wing critics who have been accusing the NEA of obstructing educational reform, even to the extent of backing their enthusiasm with their own money. The conference overwhelmingly approved a plan to set aside \$1 from each of the 1,700,000 members for a campaign to combat the rising school drop-out rate. The money will come from increased membership dues, which are about to rise from \$62 to \$66 a year.

The campaign, to be called "operation rescue", will seek to help the one million American children who drop out of school each year. The national drop-out rate is 25 per cent, but in some urban areas is as high as 55 per cent. A million dollars will be used to create an NEA endowment for educational excellence which would fund future grants to union members, while the remainder will be given to states and school districts for local programmes.

Ms Futrell challenged the Education Department to match the union "dollar for dollar", but in the present financial climate this seems unlikely.

Reagan tries to chop timber grants

A one-word alteration to President Reagan's 1986 Budget proposals could spell disaster for many schools in rural counties of the United States.

Under existing law, all counties with national forests within their borders receive 25 per cent of the gross receipts from forestry in compensation for their inability to settle the land. And the money must be spent exclusively on schools and roads. Most spend at least 50 per cent on schools while one, Virginia, devotes all its revenue to public education.

There is a lot of cash involved, and with the rising price of timber and increasing exploitation of the forests, the sums are getting bigger all the time. In 1983, 41 states shared out almost \$193 million (\$150 million) but this figure was expected to rise to \$360 million next year.

However, by changing "gross" receipts from forestry to "net", President Reagan has slashed that projected total by 91 per cent - down to \$32 million. The difference between net and gross receipts is so enormous because the costs of the forest service can be very high.

If the President's proposal gets through Congress, the hardest-hit states will be Oregon, California and Washington. In 1983 they received \$69.2 million, \$42.6 million, and \$20.6 million respectively. For some school districts the "timber money" represented almost 40 per cent of their total budget.

The schools involved are mostly in sparsely-populated rural areas with little industry. Many would have to fire teachers, increase the size of their classes, reduce instructional materials, eliminate library and music programmes, and curtail extracurricular activities if the cuts were made.

An intensive lobbying operation is now being mounted by the National School Boards Association, however, and it believes that it is winning powerful friends on Capitol Hill. One of the facts the NSBA has been ramming home is that schools in Idaho depend on the timber money for all their buses, all new equipment, and all major repairs to buildings. But in California, the situation is even more critical. If the timber money is chopped the authorities will have no alternative but to close schools.

Primary geography need is seen and must be met

Sir - The Minister of Education's speech to the Geographical Association (7ES, June 21) raised a number of issues of central importance to primary education staff.

Sir Keith Joseph recognized the importance of building on children's direct experience of the world and wondered how this could be strengthened, so that pupils "are given adequate opportunities to apply geographical ideas and skills".

This is cheering news to those of us concerned to foster the use of children's direct experience and of study about, and of the environment. His references to the study of controversial issues, the study of political and economic issues, and the attention to people in the environment are good news too.

for these are all elements of good primary geographical practice.

The Minister recognizes that teachers need support, particularly in small rural schools. Generally this is true since there are few who have done much geography since their early secondary years.

He inquires whether more attention should not be paid "to the possible role of consultant teachers and of the advisory service in primary schools", but caps this by saying "within the resources available". How does he envisage two or three-teacher schools having consultant teachers?

Where a consortium of schools arranged to have a consultant, would he fund the mileage allowances for the journeys of those teachers between

the conflict that arises from "shared space" as in the Middle East.

In addition to the obvious contributions that subjects can make surely all teachers, even if it is simply a discussion during form periods, should be part of an awareness-raising exercise concerning the Middle East crisis. If it is ignorance that holds us back, then perhaps *The TES* should publish and review relevant materials for consideration in the relative comfort of classrooms rather than with a gun in one's back.

This would reduce the need for attention-seeking that terrorism is striving for, and, in doing so, is giving into everyone's lives at present.

CAROLINE PRATLEY
Geography teacher (probationer)
Stevenage
Hertfordshire

Nevertheless, most geography teachers are not complacent and we are all keen to update ourselves! For example, at a recent one-day conference at this college to discuss developments in GCSE geography, 200 teachers participated in a lively question session, and a debate with Mike Corbett, chief geography examiner for NEA's GCSE, and Bill Fleet, the chief field work moderator.

In-service courses are in strong demand. The need is especially great in such areas as environmental and geographical education in the primary school. The DES's strategies should include a policy to make much greater funding available for more in-service staff and resources over the next decade.

MIKE PEARSON
Woodlands In Service Centre
Chorley, Lancashire

mentioned, displayed nor canvassed any political view in his work in Newham. He is busy building up an infant service where political considerations would appear to be at best tangential.

Mr Simons, an excellent director of housing, was appointed for his outstanding professional ability. To describe his appointment as political because his wife is a Labour councillor elsewhere is both unwarranted and sexist, and is totally untrue. I have never come across any appointment at Newham not based entirely on merit.

I am not a member of the Labour Party, nor any other party, though I have sometimes - equally wrongly - been accused of being a Welsh Nationalist! All three of us have served Conservative-controlled councils in the past, apparently with some degree of success. Mr Winfield has personally apologized to my colleagues and myself for the inaccuracy of some of his comments.

JOHN SAMUEL
Chief Executive
London Borough of Newham

Contrary to the latter's comments, I would say that Mr Brenton has never

various patterns with the minimal number of colours so that bordering regions never show the same colour. In the review, you relate this to the classic four-colour map problem, except that you have got the number down to three. This, I believe, would raise a number of significant eyebrows in the mathematical world!

PETER WARD
BBC School Broadcasting, Radio

LETTERS



Children are introduced to a drawing tool

Logic of Logo

Sir - I would like to make a few comments about the article "Testing Turtle" by Jerry Wellington (7ES, June 21). First, I commend the project's second aim "to allow in-service and initial training students the opportunity to use computers with children in a largely unconstrained way and to work with small groups of pupils over a long period".

I am less than happy, however, with the primary aim of the project - to test "the claims made for Logo". In discussing the claim that Logo is "universally motivating", Wellington comments that he found that many children "could not see the point of the activity". To be quite honest, from their point of view, nor do I! What was the aim of the activity for the pupils, to learn programming, to learn mathematics, to learn to draw, or just to be "guinea pigs" for the researchers?

Surely it is crucial to decide what you would like the children to get out of any activity. This will colour the way you interpret pupil activity and the suggestions you make to modify or extend it. For example, if children produce a beautiful pattern in Logo, if the goal is "design" we might colour it or tessellate it; if our goal is "mathematics" we might wish to reflect on the construction of the pattern, why it worked as it did. I was surprised to read that Mr Wellington "shuddered" to admit that he used worksheets. It

has been well accepted in the "Logo community" (and by Papert in *Mindstorms*) that the teacher should most certainly act as a facilitator, not the children's work - but in the context of the pupil's own activity and not imposed on it. I certainly would shudder if we are to have a Logo curriculum with week 1 "draw a square", week 2 "draw a triangle", week 3 "draw a house", etc. So the question is not whether one should intervene as much as how.

I also found it rather odd to read that Mr Wellington thought it surprising that very few children used a structured programming style. This is not a natural progression in Logo programming, especially if the children are introduced to Logo as a drawing tool - after all if you draw a figure you would just trace out the lines rather than do procedural analysis.

I do not want readers of this letter to think that Logo is easy for all children and that we must not criticize it. The reverse is the case. I believe that it is a strength rather than a weakness that while programming in Logo, children come up against hard problems of a conceptual nature. If we accept this then we should not trivialize the activity by not acknowledging these challenges but also we should not criticize the activity if all children do not understand everything in a very short time.

CELIA HOYLES
University of London Institute of Education

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Meddlers have their way

MALAYSIA

Geoffrey Parkins on complaints that PTAs are too powerful

meddlers have exerted their influence on the ministry directly, and have secured appointments for their favoured candidates without consulting the local education departments. Similar cases are occurring with regard to the promotion and transfer of teachers, the union says.

Mr Rajaguru said: "Some outsiders have been known to have masterminded the transfer of headmasters and teachers simply because they did not like certain things they had done, like taking disciplinary action against pupils who happen to be the children of influential parents."

This year the Education Minister, Dato Abdulah Ahmad Badawi, took down the barriers between schools and society by introducing a community-education scheme that would encourage PTAs, other outside bodies and parents to participate more in the life of the schools. So far, the scheme would seem to have only added to the problem of outside interference.

Mr Rajaguru said many PTAs were causing disruption by trying to take over the running of the schools. PTAs and similar bodies, he said, were primarily set up to complement the work of teachers in welfare, sporting,

cultural and other community projects, "but now they are becoming the controllers of some schools". And when headmasters do not "obey their orders", pressure is exerted at Education Department and ministry level "to get them out".

The Malay Teachers Union said external interference had seriously affected disciplinary matters and had undermined the authority of heads. In many instances, the union said, heads are unable to take disciplinary decisions because of outside interference.

Many heads had been reprimanded and threatened with disciplinary action after taking action against badly behaved pupils.

One headmaster, said the union, had recently been told by the Education Ministry that action was to be taken against him for caning a pupil, before an investigation was made to establish if the head's action was justified. As a result, many heads were afraid to act.

Mr Badawi was drawn into the issue at the University Pertanian Malaysia this month by interference to prevent the suspension of 16 female students who had refused to comply with the university's directive against wearing veils (purdahs). Mr Badawi said outside bodies should not get involved in the internal affairs of schools and universities.

Mr Rajaguru said the matter had been raised with the ministry, but "nothing was done, and it appears nothing can be done".

'Republican elite' feted at Sorbonne

FRANCE

The crème de la crème of French lycées - secondary pupils who have excelled in this year's highly competitive *Concours Général* examination - shook hands with the Education Minister, M. Jean Pierre Chevènement, in the Sorbonne last week.

He told them: "Competition is in the air. I ask you not just to be the best - which you already are - but to be better than the best."

In pursuing excellence and forming "a republican elite" they would, he said, be serving their country.

It is speeches like this which have made M. Chevènement increasingly popular with the French Right since he took over from M. Alain Savary a year ago, but he has upset the social consciences of his own party followers.

M. Chevènement is at pains to explain that by "republican elite" he means a true meritocracy open to all, irrespective of birth and privilege, "to which education alone can provide the key". But educationists and Socialist Party militants remain convinced that emphasis in education "policy" has shifted from extra care for the less able to nurture of the brightest.

The *Concours Général* is open only to pupils of lycées, the French secondary schools, and is the most prestigious of French examinations.



Pursuing excellence: French Education Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement.

to the best pupils in their final two years at state lycées. The very first prize-giving took place in the Sorbonne in 1747 and girls were not allowed to compete until 1930. This year, girls have taken 62 of the 179 awards. Seven of the ten philosophy prizes have gone to girls, who have also done well in languages but failed to win maths or science awards and are poorly represented in the recently introduced technical subjects.

The contest provides yet another demonstration of the pre-eminence of mathematical streams over literary streams - once again, most of the 4,000-odd candidates come from classical backgrounds, and the mathematical baccalauréat, "C" and "S" and "L" includes prize winners in French essay writing. More than a third are from the Paris area as against nearly half last year and Parisians alone have won 43 awards, 15 of them from the prestigious Louis le Grand lycée.

The *Concours Général* is open only to pupils of lycées, the French secondary schools, and is the most prestigious of French examinations.

Walking abroad

The only offer of any cash towards the £750,000 needed by the project – apart from Birmingham City's secondment of psychologist Andrew Sutton – has come from the United Nations. It considered paying for the training of British conductors for a year – the system could have great relevance for the Third World. But the offer is conditional on other money being available.

Better schools?

BERNARD BARKER

Since James Callaghan, the word curriculum has been constantly repeated as if it were a magic incantation, like Mrs Moore in *A Passage to India*.

Curriculum must be relevant, coherent or practical; it must be reviewed, defined and assessed. Schools are supposed to "deliver the curriculum" rather than teach. Bewildered subject teachers have had to learn a new terminology in which English becomes "communication skills and art is described as the 'creative' or 'aesthetic' line of development. Everyone believes that once simplifications are agreed good teaching is more or less inevitable. There comes a moment, however, when even parrots see

through what has been transparent. The emperor's nude form is starkly revealed in these two booklets, delivered free to all schools by the DES in an uncharacteristic gesture of generosity.

Both pamphlets are committed to further curriculum discussion as a panacea for the increasingly desperate state of the schools. There are no additional resources to provide books, equipment and reasonably contented teachers so curriculum change has to substitute for education policy. The DES argues that a broad, balanced, relevant curriculum (pages 4/5) with a strong, technical, vocational element (page 6) will lead to a marked improvement in pupil performance.

At present, "standards... are neither as good as they can be, nor as good as they need to be" (page 2) but no evidence is cited for such a bold and potentially offensive generalization. Cuts in rate support grant, the uncertainties of GRE, two years of industrial action and the Secretary of State's own hostile comment and manic initiatives are not mentioned.

General failure is attributed to teachers' expectations being "clouded by inadequate knowledge and understanding of each pupil" (page 3) and the fact that in most secondary schools "agreed curriculum policies appear to have little influence" (page 2). There is no attempt to explain why nationally agreed policies should succeed if these statements are true, nor is the mechanism by which curriculum discussion is translated into better or more lively teaching made clear.

Better Schools seeks to alter the laws of statistics, aiming to "bring 80 to 90 per cent of all 16-year-old pupils at least to the level of attainment now expected and achieved by pupils of average ability" (page 6). The DES has yet to learn that, like the standard, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder and that everyone cannot be above average.

GCSE is intended to work the miracle by which an individual, competitive examination will raise standards for everyone at no cost to the Exchequer. The trick is a planned switch from the normal distribution

curve to grade related criteria as a base for measurement. No one has yet shown how absolute standards or educational criteria can be used for assessment purposes without reference to a previous norm-related expectation. You cannot say what students should be able to do without observing what they can do.

The Curriculum 5-16, an HMI discussion document, follows the DES line that curriculum discussion improves lessons, using the same slogans about balance, relevance, breadth and differentiation. The paper complains of the standard report phrase "could do better" that "it provides no indication of which specific aspects of the work need improvement" (page 53). The remark could be applied with equal justice to the publication where bland platitudes and tautologies struggle to say everything and nothing.

The statements, for example, that schools, should give "attention to academic progress, though not to the exclusion of other important experiences" or that "there is so much knowledge which is potentially useful"

have the same analytic power as the suggestion that balls should be round, or at least oval. One can just imagine an exciting staff conference on environmental education based on a description of "human and social dimensions of the curriculum offered here: 'This area is concerned with people and how they live, with their relationships with each other and with their environment, and how human action, now and in the past, has influenced events and conditions' (page 18). This is indeed a path to national consensus about the curriculum. HMI have discovered that good schools have good heads and virtuous pupils, a triumph of diplomatic observation. At a certain level of generalization reality disappears altogether.

Better Schools and The Curriculum combine rebuke and platitude in equal measure and it is probably just as well that teachers are no longer listening to their supposed leaders.

Bernard Barker is head of Stanground School, Peterborough.

Out in the midday fun

JANE SCOTT

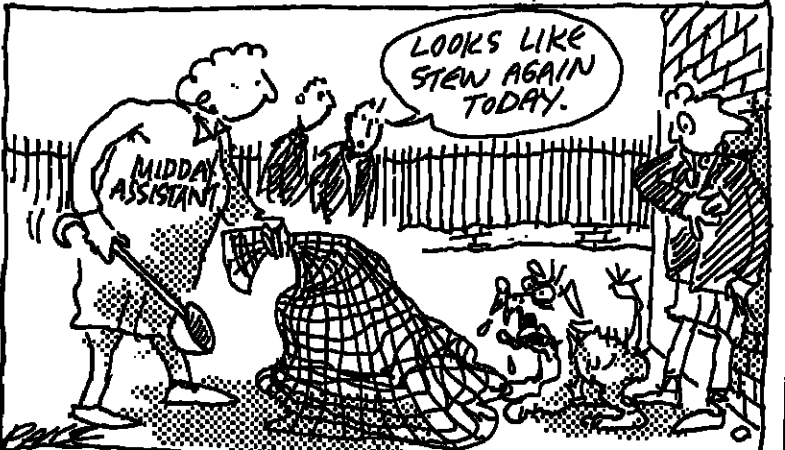
I first began my work as a midday assistant, wrongly known as a "dinner lady", at a new comprehensive school after nine years of being a housewife and mother. I had heard that there was a vacancy and although I felt I was much more suited to a secretarial job if I could find one, I thought that this job could perhaps lead to a more "respectable" position in the school if I already had one foot in the door.

It was a big step even to go for an interview after so many years at home. The headmaster was willing to let me have a go, knowing, as I know now, that there is a great deal of experience needed to handle children in the 11-18 age group firmly and fairly. It takes time for an untrained person to feel at ease in a school atmosphere and many women in the position of midday assistant do not stay long enough to become a useful fixture.

That morning, I was taken down to the kitchen to meet the supervisor as we do have to work closely with the kitchen staff although we are on the other side of the counter. To my surprise I was asked if I was prepared to do an overall and take charge of the dining room there and then. It seemed a good idea to plunge straight in so by noon I had become the new "dinner lady", a source of curiosity.

The children were polite and I was kept busy keeping the cafeteria trays on the move and later cleaning the tables. The hour and a quarter went very quickly; I had a free lunch at school and went home feeling a little harassed but a lot more alive than I had felt for a long time and much happier about starting on Monday than I would have done if I had not been thrown in at the deep end.

Every school has a slightly different system but there are four of us at ours and we work a friendly rota: one week in the dining room, one supervising a special room allotted to the packed lunch eaters and two weeks patrolling the playground. This rota also adds to the days and weeks appearing to pass



Applying oneself

TONY EVANS

After sorting through a mound of applications for a first teaching post, one fact becomes depressingly obvious: most students are not being shown how to apply.

With more candidates than posts, it may not seem to matter that over half the applications can be discounted straight away because of poor content or presentation. Unfortunately those rejected may include some of the best potential teachers, who are failing to get interviews and jobs because of inadequate application technique rather than ineffectiveness. This makes recruitment inefficient and threatens the calibre of the whole profession.

The best solution to this would be for the colleges and departments of education to invite practising teachers actually involved in the selection and shortlisting process to visit their establishments and talk to students about making effective applications.

Real examples could be used by heads of department, deputies or heads to illustrate the points covered. These would include the vital importance of always enclosing a well written, enthusiastic and informative letter of application (over 50 per cent of applications I recently received for a Letter 1 English post contained no letter at all); the advisability of a

separate cv; and the need for very careful presentation. Most students are unaware, for example, that a letter typed or hand written in black ink on unlined A4 paper is preferable to felt pen on lined file or notepaper. Even such basic points as the awful impression created by photocopied letters of application - a surprisingly common phenomenon - will not be grasped by the majority of students unless someone with experience of drawing up shortlists tells them.

Given several sessions with the students, visiting staff could also carry out some valuable practical exercises. A number of posts could be "advertised" as an exercise, with all the students applying and criticizing each others applications before drawing up a shortlist.

Any practising teacher who has talked to students about applying for jobs is likely to find a basic ignorance about even the most fundamental facts, such as the need to respond to advertisements the next day rather than a fortnight later, and the advisability of applying for as many suitable jobs as possible rather than one or two each month.

It is a sad fact that not all aspiring teachers will be able to get jobs. However, the present poor quality of advice given about making applications is inexcusable. This is one area where the teacher trainers must overcome their traditional fear of outsiders, and use the readily available expertise of those involved in the selection process to help their students over the first hurdle in the competition for employment.

Tony Evans is deputy head of Mangrove School, Bristol.



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Recent yes, but relevant?

MARY WEST

As one who left a primary headship last summer to join a College of Education training primary teachers, I find it hard to suppress a smile (or a wince) when I read about the importance of "recent and relevant school experience". Relevant to what, to whom?

Coming, as I did, fresh from school, I should have had ideal experience to offer; and, to be sure, I enjoy my new post. But I often feel pretty incompetent for teaching BSED students in a very different matter from teaching young children. I find that I need very different skills, which are taking time to acquire - they certainly did not develop during the course of the

summer holidays. For example, I am required to give some quite formal lectures on aspects of child development, Piaget and personality theory to large groups of students. Simply putting together the material for these takes most evenings. But there are also assignments to mark, in accordance with university standards.

Then there is the nightmarish situation of leading a discussion, with the looming possibilities of the Scylla of total silence from all students, leaving me blithering inconsequently, or the Charybdis of a free-ranging collection of ideas I cannot relate to each other, which is liable to dissolve into private conversations and arguments.

Hardest of all, I find, is to be aware of my own classroom skills and to find ways of transmitting them to students. Teaching practice supervision, though it is pleasant to be in a classroom again, requires a further bunch of new skills; for when I was in my own school, I could choose the moment to give friendly and constructive advice to a

student or a teacher. But now, within a very short space of time I am required to sum up what is happening in the classroom, and straight away give my diagnosis and suggest ways forward. And I have to keep the class teacher and the head happy.

Through my new colleagues' support and generosity, I am learning how to do these things. I only hope I shall crack it before I, too, come to be seen as lacking recent and relevant experience. I do not for a moment deny that within the colleges there should be tutors familiar with modern classrooms, modern children. But such experience should not be rated more highly than the skills required in teaching students. A truly close partnership with practising teachers seems to me to be a more useful way forward for colleges and student teachers than a blind insistence on too high a number of college staff with skills more appropriate to the classroom than to the many different settings in which we educate tomorrow's teachers.

Review

The history woman

Jessica Saraga on the life and work of Marjorie Reeves



Reaching 80 is an achievement among many for Marjorie Reeves, though she sees it all more in terms of the privilege it's been to spend a lifetime doing what she loves. Generations of undergraduates at St Anne's College, Oxford, where she taught history for something like forty years, have left rather lucky too, to encounter her enthusiasm, scholarship and human concern. Few of them escape her memory, even now.

She was brought up in Wiltshire near the Westbury White Horse, and still has the long, soft hair to prove it. She can't remember a time when she wasn't interested in history, but she does remember getting carried away at school writing an impassioned speech for John Hampden to deliver in Parliament. She was a Roundhead by conviction even then, the radical stance presaging a continuing radical streak.

Peering inside the ivory tower as Oxford then was, after three years she came right out again, and it was her time spent teaching in London which stimulated her interest in the two areas outside Oxford where she's made tremendous contributions - the teaching of history in schools, and the whole business of education in its broadest sense.

She always believed in education as a lifelong right for everyone, in whatever shape or form it might take, arguing for continuing education decades before anyone ever called it that. She was campaigning for nursery education, for community schools, for education for leisure, for work experience and vocational education, nearly half a century ago. Nor is she unduly depressed at the thought that it almost all still needs to be said

again and remains to be done. But she did permit herself a certain wry amusement at the suggestion at the recent headteachers' conference that perhaps the school-leaving age should now be lowered. When she was sitting on the Crowther Commission she very nearly tabled a minority report arguing against ROSLA in favour of community and work experience, so concerned was she that ROSLA might be against the interests of those whose adolescent interests lay anywhere but in school. She's always been keen on some kind of voucher or insurance system whereby you could use your entitlement to free education whenever you most felt the need for it.

There's one more book on education still in her, she thinks, which she'd like to get out; it would be a counterblast to the current utilitarian emphasis in education which elevates capability and the acquisition of skills too far above the ability to be fascinated, to be desperate to find out more. These are five-year-olds waxing passionate about space or butterflies turned into people who are technicians or computer programmers and nothing more. It crossed her mind to call the book "Are we killing the geese that lay the golden eggs?", clearly she feels that we are.

It was her own capacity to be fired by a subject that led her into the study of Joachim Fiore, the 12th-century millenarian prophet of perfectibility. Everyone thought she was crazy, but she never regretted following her instincts, and if not exactly rescuing Joachim from obscurity single-handed, she became and remains the leading British scholar on his influence.

She was an unrepentant medievalist in school history too, defending the study of the remote as

well as the immediate past, and deploring the view that sees "relevance" only in the 20th century. If history is about understanding ourselves and our roots, other people and theirs, nothing is irrelevant that speaks of the human condition and the mainstays of human action. Socrates and Athens raise questions of indoctrination, democracy, the toleration of dissidence, slavery, the position of women, just as well as any modern study; Dante was embroiled in love and loss and politics and hope, pretty much as many of us are today. At a lower level, simply finding out about how people lived hundreds of years ago can provide the first insight into our common humanity with people of other times and cultures.

Much of this thinking is behind Longman's *Then and There* series, for which Marjorie Reeves is justly best known. She wanted to create for children a unity of time and space, to immerse them in a "patch" of history, in contrast to the traditional superficial abstractions of the chronological approach. Her own contributions on medieval and Elizabethan life combine clear and simple language with a scholarship which emphasises original sources and contemporary illustrations. It's all part of the attack on the Victorian legacy of edifying stories and artists' impressions of noble deeds, which produced the "new his-

tory", in which she's been a seminal influence. Over all the *Then and There* books Marjorie Reeves keeps a benign and watchful eye still as general editor, insisting on the validity of her first conception. There can't be many postwar children who haven't come across one of them somewhere in their school career.

She must have been an inspirational teacher, always keen on the immediacy and impact of the spoken word (though she is the first to value the contribution of educational technology too), always keen to find ways of adapting her material to the interests and capacities of whatever pupils confronted her, and always the first to want to get outside and look at the history round about.

When she was asked to apply to St Anne's after the war she was in two minds about whether she'd stay long in a university which, still a bastion of privilege, was a complete contrast to the schools she'd been in in Battersea and Camberwell and Peckham. As it turned out, Oxford has remained her base ever since; she still lives over the road from St Anne's. She has watched Oxford become less exclusive and more open to talent, and given it a good few pushes in the right direction; she set up a schoolmistress fellowship at St Anne's, pushed the college's going mixed, in the certainty that more mixed colleges must ultimately get more women into Oxford, as of course it has.

She did feel a bit isolated, she supposes, in the old days as a woman in a man's world, and is very grateful that with the advent of mixed colleges, jobs haven't been shared equally with women. But you can't imagine her being discriminated against because it would never occur to her that she might be. "If you relate to people person to person," she says, "there's never a problem". She thinks she's not favourite with the women's movement for this kind of attitude, and confesses to a certain amount of irritation with the exclusiveness of Women's Studies. Of course women have been left out of history; of course they should be written back in. But not, she feels, out of context of everything else.

She'd be the last to deny that something needed to be improved, or that it could be. Involvement and the conviction of the possibility of progress are her hallmarks, and her freshness of approach, energy, and commitment to education in its widest sense, haven't dwindled. Here's to her next 80 years.

Both sides of the curtain

Sarah Ray on Mari Bicknell's Cambridge Ballet Workshop



Cambridge Ballet Workshop began in Mari Bicknell's children's nursery in 1950 with a small cast of children under 13 and piano music from the adjoining sitting room; the production was called "Let's Make a Ballet", and ballets for and about and with children is what Mari and the company have been making ever since. The nursery has been superseded twice, by the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, in July 1952 and, perhaps a more exciting transformation, by the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, from July 1965. The productions have also become more lavish, but the spirit of vitality and joyousness ignited by Mari's pupils has remained, gathering a loyal and devoted following of pupils and audience ever since.

For many of us, children's ballet suggests grim hours spent in church halls watching ill-assorted and often untalented and uncomfortably dressed children perform their annual "display" - the spectacle of devoted parents. It is different with Mari Bicknell's ballet. There is no individual showing off; the emphasis is on the cooperation of the company and though each child is technically stretched they are never strained. Cambridge Ballet Workshop is a unique company of 20-30 pupils aged between 7 and 18, drawn from all the pupils Mari Bicknell teaches. The company is flexible, but Mari demands and gets a very high standard of commitment. Originally children rehearsed two classical classes a week as well as rehearsing relating to the two annual productions. But as the company has extended its range and embraced jazz ballet as well as mime, most of the

children now attend three classes a week, which represents many after-school hours for those who are also committed to their own school's academic life and the extra-curricular demands of sport and music.

The children are rewarded for this dedication and hard work by the experience of taking part in a production rooted in professionalism. For, dancers apart, Cambridge Ballet Workshop has given the opportunity to young musicians, composers, designers and stage managers to display their talents and learn their trades - Peter Pettigrew and Roger Vignoles both played for classes and performances and Roger Vignoles composed a commissioned score for "Six Characters in Search of a Choreographer" in 1965. Patrick Robertson, who has more recently designed for the London Stage has also designed delightful sets for the Workshop.

Unlike most dancing classes, Mari Bicknell's have always been accompanied by a "live" piano, because for Mari educating children in dance on both sides of the curtain means encouraging an understanding and appreciation of music. 1955 was a milestone for the company when Joseph Horowitz was commissioned to compose a score for a new work "Les Rats". He subsequently composed a score for "Alice through the looking glass".

"Let's Make a Ballet" was Mari's response to "Let's Make an Opera"; the music and personal encouragement of Benjamin Britten has been an inspiration for several of Cambridge Ballet Workshop works. "Young persons guide to the Orchestra" was first danced in 1970 and remains

in the repertoire; particularly attractive are the youngest members of the company who dance delightfully to interpret the piccolos and flutes.

In 1968, with the support of Cambridgeshire Education Authority, Mari Bicknell embarked on an illustrated lecture programme which would encourage East Anglian schools to bring parties of children to performances and extend the awareness of dance in the region. This has proved so successful that ever since Cambridge Ballet Workshop has performed eight school matinees each year to packed houses.

The company became a charity in 1974 and in order to be registered as such Mari Bicknell set out formally its aims. "The final aim has perhaps been the toughest," she says, "to present ballets for the entertainment and education of audiences with special attention to the balance of the arts of music, dancing and painting based on stimulating ideas within the imaginative grasp of children. To move and totally involve our audience. So which of my own ballets come nearest to these rather high-fluting ideals? For me it must be 'The Infanta's Birthday'... which will be danced in the farewell season."

This is based on an Oscar Wilde story and set to two pieces of Ravel which Mari has cleverly interlarded with sets and costumes inspired by Velasquez painting "Las Meninas". It is a story

about children and so when interpreted and danced by children the emotion of the Infanta herself, played by a determined 11-year-old, the power she exercises over her court is electric.

What does Mari hope for the children of her company who are dedicated to the hard work of dance and the theatre for so many years? Certainly not that they should become professional dancers. Amateurism is frowned on, but there is no encouragement of "stage-struck" little girls. But the possibility of a choreographer emerging from the company delights her and many children have gone on to careers in the extended theatre arts with a realistic outlook. Bill Buffery, now a director at the National Youth Theatre, was a member of Cambridge Ballet Workshop in character, rather than dance parts. Deborah Hedderwick, a former Workshop soloist who danced the original Infanta, is now a professional choreographer in London; she has created various ballets for the company and her vigorous and humorous ballet "Sporting Chance" is in the current programme. Next year she will be helping the new director Caroline Messenger mount the 1986 production.

Any visit to the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, is a treat - Wilkins' charming theatre, with its rounded auditorium of gilded boxes under a domed roof with painted sky and pinky clouds, enhances the audience's experience. This summer, under Wilkins' dome, Cambridge Ballet Workshop presents a dramatic ballet, "Plumed Serpent", based on traditional Mexican music and legend, and designed and choreographed by Caroline Messenger, and her wartime ballet "Dancing in the Dark" to Duke Ellington; as well as "The Infanta's Birthday" and "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra". The costumes are expertly realized by Irene Ashman, as have been all the costumes since 1960.

This is the story so far. Mari Bicknell retires as director this year but not as the company's teacher of classical dance. So she can look forward to next year's production under new direction but with the same ideals: educating children on both sides of the curtain in ballet as a theatre art.

Cambridge Ballet Workshop will perform at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds from July 15-20. Box office: 0284 69505. Enquiries: 0224 352760.

Following the leaders

by Hugh Stephenson

The Conservative Party from Peel to Thatcher. By Robert Blake. Methuen £12.95. 0 413 58140 3. Fontana £3.95. 0 00 686003 6.

Thatcher: the First Term. By Patrick Cosgrave. The Bodley Head £9.95. 0 370 30602 3.

Both these books are in a sense "second editions". Lord Blake has brought up to date his popular *Conservative Party from Peel to Churchill* first published 15 years ago. Patrick Cosgrave, once a speech writer for and confidant of Thatcher, has also built heavily on his *Margaret Thatcher: a Tory and her Party*, published in the year before she became Prime Minister.

Blake's new chapters are written with the same brioze and pace as the original ones. The extended version will take its place as a highly readable text and reference book on the history of the Tory Party. But, to be churlish, the old wine was better than the new. The blurb claims that in the case of recent episodes Blake, the lifelong historian of the party, has also been able to add "private information and personal knowledge of the people involved".

That may be the case, for example when he is describing the way in which the Tories in control rigged the evidence of relative support to ensure that Douglas-Home and not Butler should become Prime Minister after Macmillan. (Douglas-Home only just lost the subsequent 1964 election. Butler

would very likely have countered Harold Wilson better and won it. What then, he speculates, would have happened to the respective stories of both Labour and the Tories?)

As he gets closer to the present, though, the narrative becomes frankly what we journalists call a "cuttings job", strangely peppered with phrases like "to the outside observer—and one must emphasise the lack of inside knowledge" or "insofar as one can judge". There is, of course, no clear line between history and current affairs journalism. All one can say is that by the time Lord Blake gets to the Heath and Thatcher years he has crossed it—and that he is an infinitely better historian than a journalist. (Also, without wishing to seem unduly pedantic, the Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, surely owes us a duty not to use the word "biographized", even if it is only in the bibliography.)

Patrick Cosgrave, on the other hand, is a journalist attempting instant history. He is flattering enough to quote liberally from a slim volume that I wrote after Thatcher's first year in office, usually with attribution. And we have come to many of the same conclusions about her—with the difference that Cosgrave is sympathetic to what Thatcherism has been trying to achieve and thinks that it is getting somewhere.)

His narrative is indeed illuminated by private information and personal knowledge of the people involved, particularly Thatcher herself—though here again the earlier material, when

he was still a member of the inner circle, is richer than the later.

To my mind the central new insight that Cosgrave provides about Thatcher's period as Leader of the Opposition from 1975 to 1979 and in the subsequent early years in No 10 is that she was unsure of her legitimacy as leader of the party. It explains so much in her conduct that was perplexing and has been put down variously to her original almost total inexperience of running things, or to her sex. From the start she mixed ruthlessness and obstinacy of purpose with indecision and an unwillingness to be rid of colleagues who were opposing her. Her first Cabinet, for example, was made up almost entirely of the front bench team that she had inherited from Heath four years earlier.

Thatcher had reason to be unsure of her legitimacy before 1979. She had become leader by accident. She was chosen by the late Airey Neave—who did not then know or like her particularly—as the standard bearer against Heath *faute de mieux*, in particular *faute de Sir Keith Joseph* who had put himself out of the running with a silly speech about the lower orders.

If Heath had not obstinately hung on after two election defeats running, when the party clearly wanted to get rid of him, if Whitelaw had behaved like a politician and thrown his hat into the ring earlier, if a lot of Tories who tactically voted Thatcher on the first ballot only to scare Heath into resigning had known what the result

would be... if, if, if. In those years she had every reason to feel insecure. Thatcherism was a commando raid that for the time being had control of the commanding heights of the party, but its position was completely unconsolidated.

But, Cosgrave convincingly suggests, the 1979 election victory did not make Thatcher feel legitimate either. For the fact was the electorate was voting to get rid of a Labour government, not voting positively in favour of Thatcherism. The 1979 Tory election manifesto contained all the usual platitudes of modern Toryism, but it and the campaign contained nothing to suggest that there was going to be any radical departure from the kind of Toryism that had been put forward, say, under Heath. Those in the know were aware that a small group of political ideologues had formed themselves around the leader, but what has subsequently become Thatcherism was certainly not presented to the electorate for its endorsement.

The irony of this analysis is that—post-Falklands and the 1983 election—Thatcher has become sure of her own political legitimacy just as it is becoming clear beyond all doubting that the economic industrial and social policies she has been pursuing are turning out to be catastrophic failures. When some future Lord Blake writes the history of this last decade, Thatcher will in retrospect turn out to have been one of the great Tory disasters.

Illusions

Images of God: The Consolations of Lost Illusions. By Peter Fuller. Chatto and Windus £4.95.

Peter Fuller is one of the few art critics currently raging against neo-expressionism, a style that hit London with "The New Spirit in Painting" exhibition in 1981 and became an international cult after the success of the "Zeitgeist" show in Berlin in 1982. The images used in this new art are, like fast food, seized greedily and fast. Emphasis is placed not on skill or slow distillation of the idea, but on an anti-intellectual spontaneity. While museums and leading collectors fight to acquire paintings by Georg Baselitz, Fuller finds them "inflated in size and price, overweening, ugly, bombastic, rapid, loose and awash with the sentimentality of borrowed angst".

Another neo-expressionist is the American artist Schenkel, whose canvases covered with smeared crockery were shown at the Tate last year. Fuller called on its director, Alan Bowness, either publicly to justify Schenkel's art or to resign.

Bowness, of course, did neither, and Fuller's vociferous complaints have done little to stem the fashion for large-scale hectic painting. Critics, nowadays, are out of the game, mere commentators on the taste-making activities of certain collectors, dealers and exhibition organizers. Fuller, perhaps to offset this marginality, resorts to vigorous polemic. Whether attacking post-modern jewellers made out of torn cinema tickets or a misconceived exhibition, his criticism is salient and lucid. But in this his third collection of essays, articles and reviews, his arguments can sound shrill and abusive: Schenkel's imagination is "acned and adolescent"; the taste behind "The Hard-Won Image" exhibition that of an "insipid, confused and ingratulating" bureaucrat. Still more gratuitous is the aside delivered on a feminist critic: "that ageing schoolmarm of the late 1960s". If Fuller becomes a second Douglas Cooper—renowned for his entertainingly invective but too extreme to merit respect?

When he praises either a painting or a pot, his stance is that of a radical conservative in the Arts and Crafts tradition. He values skills, traditions, study of nature, and regrets the lack of a "shared symbolic order" such as Christianity provided in the past. Without it craftsmen have no meaningful system of ornament and the artist is menaced by "unredeemable subjective"ness. Fuller is not, however, as the book's title might suggest, advocating a return to religious art. His final essay, a synoptic account of christological studies, helps explain why for him "the illusion of God has been pricked for ever". Yet he preaches a need for consoling illusions, and throughout this book judges art on its ability or failure to provide them.

Frances Spalding

Finding out the facts

Find out About Ancient Greeks. By Casey Morton. Eshkimos. By Jill Higgins. Lions and Tigers. By Jill Higgins. Pre-historic Mammals. By Hannah Hamilton £3.95 each. Great Disasters By Andrew Langley. The Age of Dinosaurs. By David Norman. Under the Ground. By Andrew Langley. Wayland Topics £3.95 each.

The avalanche of books geared to topic work for the primary age group is still gathering momentum and with each new series, publishers seem to cast their nets more widely, sometimes grouping disparate subjects under a catch-all title.

Hannah Hamilton have obviously taken to heart the merits of recycling materials and have made use of some of the illustrations from their earlier *Class* Look books in a new series called *Find out About*.

The illustrations for *Lions and Tigers* look very familiar but are delicate and attractive for all that. In fact, the book of the book is devoted to lions and only a double page spread is given to tigers. Unexpectedly, leopards, cheetahs and several other members of the cat family are also covered, but only two pages are given over to the life of conservation. The text is not as simple as the publisher's would have us believe, but should not cause problems for 9 to 11-year-olds.

The perennial favourite subject of dinosaurs has been refined down to a chronological history of pre-historic mammals on earth, including man. Here, good use has been made of diagrams to indicate fossil formation and relative sizes of the pre-historic and present day varieties of mammals. The information about each species is

fairly brief, but an attempt has been made to indicate the time scales involved and the influence of man on the survival of other mammals.

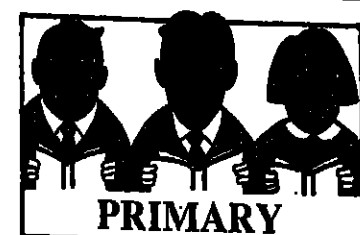
Eskimos, or the Inuit, as they prefer to be known, are given a very traditional treatment, with their skill as hunters, igloo builders and storytellers. Only in the last two pages is it stated that the old Eskimo way of life has all but vanished and that oil companies, together with Western civilization, are gradually destroying their culture. Wayland's excellent *Original People* series gives a much clearer and less cosy picture of life for the Inuit in the modern world.

The *Ancient Greeks* seems to be the least interesting of the four titles and has a tendency to become a litany of fairly superficial facts and figures. The illustrations are also of a less delicate style and do little more than decorate the text, with their cryptic captions (eg. The group of eight bearded gentlemen wearing sheets captioned "Writers and Philosophers").

All the books are well produced with contents list, rudimentary index and glossary but, on the whole, this series is very much the recipe as before and if the topics are already well represented in your stocks, they will be a luxury rather than a necessity.

The Topics series by Wayland is aimed at the slightly younger 8-10 years age group and employs the sometimes irritating technique of putting difficult words in bold type, to indicate that they are explained in the glossary.

The topics covered range from *Under the Ground* to *Great Disasters* and yes, you guessed it, *The Age of Dinosaurs*. The books actually have real chapters, not just double page



PRIMARY

spreads and use colour photographs as well as illustrations. The general appearance is less attractive than the *Find out About* series, mainly because a fairly large type face has been used, which does not lend itself to large expanses of text. Even without the bold type for difficult words, it rather jumps out at the reader and is unpleasant on the eye. It is perhaps unreasonable to expect anything new from a series of books of this kind about dinosaurs and the standard range of early, plant-eating, meat-eating varieties and their untimely demise are all covered. In this particular title, the bold type indicates that the Latin name for the dinosaur has been spelt out phonetically in brackets. The illustrations are in two distinctively different styles, which do not fit happily together and give the book a rather strappy appearance.

Great Disasters examines natural and man-made catastrophes, including flood, famine, disease, plane crashes and even nuclear explosions. The coverage is, of necessity, superficial and gives a rather brutalist air to the whole book. It seems callous to discuss the *Achilles* disaster or the Ethiopian famine in one brief sentence before hurrying on to the next tragedy and I have misgivings about appealing to the more unsavoury aspects of human curiosity.

Under the Ground takes a brief look at everything in the earth, from animals and worms to pipes and cables. This might form a useful starting point for children undertaking a project on the subject, but it would not carry them very far and the little bibliography of further reading at the end of each book in this series would be useful in this respect.

Vivien Griffiths

Looking on the bright side

Bright Ideas for Seasonal Activities; Bright Ideas for Christmas Art and Craft; Bright Ideas for Science; Bright Ideas for Language Development. Ideas drawn from Scholastic Magazines. Ward Lock Educational/Scholastic £3.95 each.

"Perhaps what we really ought to do," said a colleague to me the other day, "is forget all the academic content of teacher education courses and just teach the students how to conjure and juggle." It certainly seems like that at times. You go down the corridor thinking in terms not so much of concepts to be taught and learning objectives attained as of tones of voice, postures, gadgets, jokes, gawgaws, surprises and party tricks which will capture the attention of a class. Last week I illustrated the word "Chirp" by taking a little girl's socks off and kicking her feet in front of her classmates. I have been known to use an electronic drum synthesizer as an aid to the teaching of Religious Education, and "I wonder what I've got in this shopping bag?" is as much an assembly cliché in some schools as the words "I am seriously concerned about the behaviour of certain boys" in others.

If you see education in this way—"OK, so you've seen the lady in half, what next?"—then a series of books called *Bright Ideas* is bound to look attractive. Bright Ideas are what most of us thirst for. A couple of examples will help give the flavour of this enterprise. In *Bright Ideas for Language Development* there is the following: "Guess what it is."

"One child is 'it' and has to cover or shut his/her eyes while another child reaches into the bag and pulls out one object. After the rest of the class have

dedicated to paperbuckling good Scottish fiction suitable for young readers. This should bring me to Bonnie Dundee, since the idea of Rosemary Sutcliffe turning from the Romans to write about one of the most dramatic periods of Scottish history should be thrilling; unfortunately I found so offensive the minuscule print in which Puffin have presented it that I have not read and cannot recommend it.

Finally, two books to encourage the reader to do other things than read. *How to Grow Weird and Wonderful Plants* (Paul Temple, Beaver, £1.25) is much more business-like than its title and jacket might suggest, and full of useful information, while *Getting About in the Great Outdoors* (Anthony Greenbank, Puffin, £1.95) is a first-class introduction to all kinds of outdoor activities, thoroughly responsible, safety-conscious and stimulating.

Audrey Laski

Janni Howker has won the Children's Book of the Year Award for *Badger on the Barge* (Julia MacRae). This is a new award organized by Alan McColm, an English teacher at Norden County High School near Blackburn. Among the seven judges was nine-year-old Matthew Jenkinson who had previously won a book reviewing competition. The prize, £250 and an engraved decanter, was provided by the National Provincial Building Society.

Maurice Sendak, author and illustrator of picture books, including the ever-popular *Where the Wild Things Are* and the haunting *Outside Over There*, will take part in a public discussion with Paul Vaughan at the ICA on July 26 at 1.00pm in the *In Conversation* series. Tickets £1.50 (01-930 3647).

IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT

Amplett, Davies, Jones (eds) An educational video with booklets in English teaching, even with the most awkward youngsters? Tim Brighouse - Chief Education Officer, Oxon.

£45.00 plus V.A.T. Hardback, October 1985 OBP . . . OXFORD POLYTECHNIC PRESS (0580)

Notebooks

Johann Sebastian Bach by Hannsdieter Wohlfarth (Lutterworth Press £12.95. 0 7188 2617 5) makes an immediate impact with 40 pages of illustrations including some stunning colour plates of the composer, and the people and places associated with him. This is an approachable, well documented if sometimes jerkily written account of the composer's life and major works, suitable for the school library.

In Olivier Messiaen and the Music of Time (Paber £17.50. 0 571 13534 X) Paul Griffiths offers a thoroughly researched, perceptive analysis of the range of influences on Messiaen's music and a chronological study of his works up to the latest, the opera *Saint François d'Assise*. Probably the most comprehensive account of Messiaen's music to date, it is unusual in its examination of the composer's output from the musical and artistic point of view rather than the theological.

Peter Heyworth's *Conversations with Klemperer* (Paber Paperback £4.95. 0 571 13561 7) is a fascinating record of the conductor's early years at the Kroll opera, his exile in America and the period in London with the Philharmonia. Klemperer the "giant among traditionalists" makes very personal comment on Schoenberg, Strauss, Webern and many other composers and conductors of his day, and has a harsh word for some members of the avant-garde who "stamp their feet and call it music".

Philippa Davidson

Literature and the Left in France by JE Flower (Methuen £5.95. 0 416 39640 2) is a paperback release of a book first published in 1983 which deals mainly with the novel, from Zola to Roger Vailland and Pierre Courteade, in the light of their political ambitions and the policies of the Left, in particular the Communist Party. It is a valuable particularly for its treatment of such writers as Paul Nizan and Aragon against this background and in contrast to lesser-known working-class novelists.

The Return of Martha Guerre by Natalie Zemon Davis (Penguin £2.50) investigates the story behind Daniel Vigne's film. The case of the 16th-century impostor raises interesting questions about identity and marriage. Davis has written a scholarly account without destroying the fascination of the story, leaving some of the mystery unpeeled.



A 1st century AD marble sculpture of two greyhounds, and a Verrocchio drawing—two of the illustrations to *Treasures of the British Museum*, by Marjorie Caygill (British Museum Publications £15.00).

(Fairly) young British poets

The Gregory Poems 1983-84. Edited by John Fuller and Howard Sergeant. The Salamander Press £2.95. 0 907540 58 9.

Poetry Introduction 6. Faber and Faber £3.95. 0 571 13543 9.

Happily, there is not yet a career structure for poets. There are no Youth Training Schemes, apprenticeships or index-linked pensions. There is, however, an increasing number of awards and competitions open to new, young (or preferably new young) poets. Among the former the E.C. Gregory Awards rank high in both prestige and cash terms (in 1984 they were worth more in total than the Booker Prize).

That may be one reason why the latest batch of Gregory Award winners—"The Best of the Young British Poets"—are, almost without exception, seasoned professionals and, quite frankly, were not really young at all when they received their cheques last year. Though hardly besting it like Colossus, even when they knew their

way round the literary world and were at least acquainted with the editors and publishers who people it. Nothing particularly wrong with that, of course. Nothing at all—apart from the effect it has on the poetry.

Editors John Fuller and Howard Sergeant believe that their 1983-84 anthology *The Gregory Poems* "will become a common point of reference for everyone concerned with the future of British poetry". A distinctly worrisome thought since in the main the work of the 19 award-winning or commended poets in this year's collection is cold, safe, conservative stuff. Martyn Cruickshank, one of the more individual talents on display, could well have been referring to his colleagues (rather than visitors to the National Gallery) when he wrote: "They're drawn to quotidian scenes."

Almost single-mindedly they are. The bulk of the 66 poems in the volume are little more than snapshots, frozen moments in the colour-supplement lives of the poets themselves. Read as a batch they chronicle the everyday doings of a group of upwardly-mobile young professionals. There are, car-

rides in the country and cycle trips through town, observations drawn from foreign holidays and sightings in the library—someone's reading Greek, a stray reference to Gramsci—encounters with the fridge and memories prompted by the central heating boiler. And throughout the academic musings is a naturalism and enforced ease, together with a seasoning of that levity which hardly ever survives a university English course. In nine poems chronicling his own suburban academia, Simon Curtis even manages to be funny.

Only Mick Imlah consistently transcends this suburban preoccupations. "Quessimodo Says Goodnight" and "The Zoologist's Bath" are extended dramatic monologues a world away from the deep-freeze or senior common-room. And, although it treads the same ground as many another poem, "Doing It", an affectionate reminiscence of adolescent fumbling, manages to distance then from now and speaks in a voice of its own.

Curiously, Imlah would be more at home among the contributors to *Poetry Introduction 6*, a showcase of the work of eight new poets who have risen through small magazines and poetry competitions and stand out from the

brink of their first full volumes. Less careful with their aitches, leaving the odd 'i' undotted, the occasional 'i' uncrossed, they are nevertheless a more lively collection of talents. Though the suburban strains are still there, also apparent is a naturalism and enforced ease, together with a seasoning of that levity which hardly ever survives a university English course. In nine poems chronicling his own suburban academia, Simon Curtis even manages to be funny.

Unfortunately, at 42 he is too old for a Gregory Award. Happily, Stephen Knight (b.1960) is not. It would be pleasant to think that publication of his poems in *Poetry Introduction 6* might bring him to the attention of this year's Gregory judges. Or come to that next year's. There's plenty of time: at 25 he really is a new young poet.

Hugh David

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

scapes, and a small pair of eyes may need help to spot that it is also 6 o'clock in June. Easter but less artistically satisfying to do the jolly counts in too old to identify with its brave, bewilderment, and very young heroine; it is good, of course, but I suspect it's good for adults, not children.

I have the same uncomfortable feeling about Maurice Sendak's *Outside Over There* (Picture Puffin, £3.50). I know how adults worried over *Where the Wild Things Are* while children were happily Bionized by Jill Paton Walsh in *A Parcel of Pattern* (Puffin, £1.50). All these novels are severe in facing the bleakness of life; the gestures towards sustained human relationships with which they end are fragments shored against our ruin. Even where the shadows of death and the romantic adolescent novels, the recognition that the key to life is the acceptance of its imperfection rules. So, in *Goodbye Summer* (Alison Price, Magnet, £1.50) has to accept that there is no escaping the traps of love that have damaged her parents in the very end. Told, like most of these stories, in the first person, it is lively and funny as well as saddening, and its

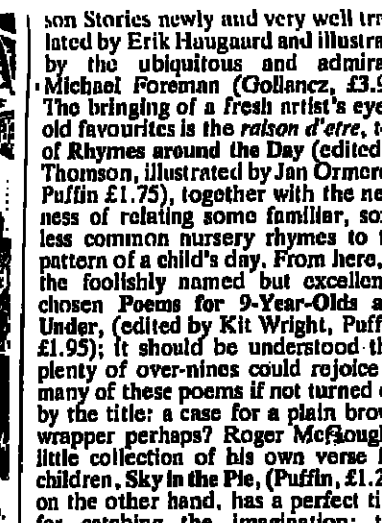


Illustration by Harold Jones from *The Fairy Stories of Oscar Wilde* (Gollancz £2.95).

quality can be clearly seen by comparison with an American product which starts very similarly, but is sensibly inferior, *Hollywood Dream Machine* (Bonnie Zindel, Bodley Head, £2.95).

Solving the mysteries which surround adult life is something of a common theme in several novels for slightly younger readers. In Susan Cooper's new fantasy, *Seaward* (Puffin, £1.50) they are mysteries to do with life, death and magical genes; this is a rich piece of imagining, though some elements of the plotting do not bear too close examination; her hero and heroine pass through experiences not unlike those in adventure games, but far more deeply felt. Jan Mark's *Handles* (Puffin, £1.50) is to do with the mysteries of every day life—on the gloriously funny surface with such trivia as how a thoroughly masculine repair shop owner comes to be called "Elsie", and, below it, with how it is possible to establish one's real identity, and why the wrong people are attracted to each other. The way to Satin Shore (Phillipa Pearce, Puffin, £1.50) takes us back to the mysteries of life and death; it is, in fact, a real and serious murder mystery, and I have a uneasy feeling, despite the high praise it has received, that readers old enough to cope with its depths will be too old to identify with its brave, bewilderment, and very young heroine; it is good, of course, but I suspect it's good for adults, not children.

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Magical history tour

Red Noses. By Peter Barnes. RSC Barbican Theatre. The Duchess of Malfi. By John Webster. National (Lyttelton) Theatre. Pantomime. By Derek Walcott. Trixicle Theatre. Grahams. By Billy Hannon. Hampstead Theatre.

Welcome to the magical history tour. In *Red Noses* we go to 14th-century France during the Black Death. Graves lie open in a hellish landscape, smoke belching, criss-crossed with crosses (Farrab's brilliant design). In *Auxerres* the infected scream and die deserted by their archbishop who wonders: "Have I chosen the wrong side?" Plague-crazed flagellants parade their bloody excesses, masochism's answer to despair. Enter Innocent Marcel Flore, monkish priest. This is his Damascus Road. Here his call comes to form "a brotherhood of joy, Christ's clowns, God's zany". *Red noses* whose performances will bring laughter and comfort to living and dying. Into his band are gathered a nun (Marguerite), her intended rapist (Brodin), his impoverished-knight companion (Rochford) and the unwilling Toulon (chaplain) to the abbeys (archbishop) who categorizes the enterprise as "Fetism". The damnable heresy of happiness. Their company grows abhorrent: a blind juggler, a stuttering stand-up comic, two one-legged dancers on crutches. They constitute "the triumph of hope over

experience" and, led by blind Jean, they set off to Avignon with Dies Irac as their glee. There Pope Clement, "giving up hope for Lent", commissions them and they perform "Everyman" drawing tears of laughter. As the plague recedes their innocent merriment becomes suspect to the authorities re-introducing the instruments of power. Rochford-Judas joins their enemies and they are mowed down with cross-bows. Their comedy routines ring out from heaven.

Peter Barnes' last play, *Laughier*, was a double-bill exploring comedy in the cruelties of Ivan the Terrible and Auschwitz. *Red Noses* goes further. It is a brilliantly comic, sometimes over-written, large-canvas play which throws light on a little-known footnote to history, comments forcefully on religion and power-politics, asserts human worth. Mind-tingling, splendidly directed (Terry Hands) and marvellously acted by a huge cast led by Antony Sher, *Red Noses* is exhilarating.

From 14th-century France our tour moves on into 16th-century Italy as viewed in Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*. This first production of the McKellen-Petherbridge NT Group is designed and directed by Philip Prowse of Glasgow fame. Shadowy corridors and relic-cased rooms house processions of black-velveted conspirators and sycophants. The grisly tragedy is classically acted and well declaimed but, apart from an occasional quickening, its dark light refuses to blaze. McKellen's Bosola is powerfully blunt; Jonathan Hyde's Duke

dangerously deranged; Eleanor Bron's Duchess beautifully sensuous but lacking tragic stature. Petherbridge's Cardinal disappears and some of the direction is mistaken: Antonio's long death crawl prevents us seeing and hearing him. Death personified and ever-present is distracting. From Italy to Tobago in the West Indies in 1978, and *Pantomime* by Derek Walcott, where our tour takes us to a gazebo, part of a guest house, beautifully realized by designer Ellen Cairns. Manager Henry (Terence Longdon) rehearses "Robinson Crusoe", his pantomime for two actors, pressing Walter Jackson (Raul Newey) into the cast. These two play a richly funny series of variations on the master-servant theme, serious and comic: "here is the whole history of imperialism." Not quite, but there is enough and plenty to go on with and Walcott makes pertinent points on both sides of the argument. Alby James's direction gives two good actors their head, expertly blending pace and mood.

Back to now, our journey ends in *Grafters* set in "the Redundancy Pool of a car factory" where every other word is a four-letter expletive. Six redundants sit out their time getting on each other's nerves. No real action takes place until Act Two where some mindless bullying precipitates a casualty and two sackings, and some arm-wrestling leads to a resignation. Only Tony Burrough's setting is believable.

John James

Some advice for Mrs Worthington

Geraldine Morris on the ROH sixth form week

At a time of sweeping cutbacks in the arts it may seem somewhat perverse to encourage a sixth former to enter any area of the performing arts - indeed, most teachers would positively discourage their students from doing so. And yet for those who are artistically-orientated it is a highly satisfying world to be in. Such at any rate was the message from a host of speakers at The Royal Opera House's course for sixth formers which ran throughout last week.

The course, organized by the Education Unit, offers 50 places, 25 each for opera and ballet. It is open to sixth formers from any school, at a cost of £15 per student. For students from ILEA schools it is free, so it was puzzling to find only eight there - a course exists? It is mentioned in an ILEA booklet of courses for sixth formers, and in the ROH Education Unit's own news bulletin *It's Touch*.

Throughout the week there were specific sessions on opera and ballet for each group, and a chance to attend a performance of *Ariadne auf Naxos* or of *Manon*. No aspect of theatre life was omitted: there were talks and discussions on work as a member of the orchestra, as stage manager, as chorus master, as a technician, and as a specialist in wardrobe, wigs, jewellery, prop maker, set designer, marketing manager - the range was endless, but the message was consistent: don't come into the arts unless you really love them, the salaries are relatively low and the hours are long and irregular. Do get a degree, do learn to type,

do take part in as much amateur theatre as possible - you can't have too much experience. If many of the youngsters looked crestfallen it is perhaps because they had been led to believe that work in the professional theatre is a soft option, ideal for drop-outs and failures, and that qualifications are unnecessary.

The week was also designed to allow them to explore their practical capabilities. Almost every day the dancers and non-dancers in the ballet group were given a class by Oliver Symons (Royal Ballet Master) while the opera students worked with Nina Walker (Royal Opera Repetiteur) and with John Dobson (Principal singer) on Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. All, too often, the influence of Mrs Worthington is still evident: for such cases sessions like this are invaluable. And for anyone going into the theatre as a non performer, the message was again clear - you must understand the problems of the performer. And a final word of caution. Although, once into an opera house, there are many chances for moving about within it, don't apply for a job in the marketing department if your aim is to produce opera.

The Royal Opera House Education Unit's sixth form course is run every year through dates for next year's session are not yet available. For more information contact The Education Unit, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 9DD. Tel. 01-240 1200 ext. 155 (dance), 353 (opera).

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The Cenci
Percy Bysshe Shelley

Who wants to make a statement?

It's Our Life New Channel Four youth drama series

A new drama series to be made for Channel 4 later this year is setting out to present a more accurate and comprehensive picture of young people in the world today than anything previously attempted on television. *It's Our Life* will allow groups of 14 to 20-year-olds from this country and abroad literally to make their own programmes.

Co-producers Gareth Wardell, founder of the Scottish Youth Theatre and a director of Jam Jar Films, and Ken Howard from Landseer Film and Television Productions, are currently looking for the right groups. "They could be in a youth theatre group already," says Howard, "but that is by no means necessary. I'd love to find an ordinary group on the street somewhere and work with them. Or a group of students, say. It doesn't matter. What is important is that they want to make a statement about what they are thinking now and that that statement has a universal application."

The first four of the one-hour programmes will be made with groups from England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland. But it is hoped that the series will also include contributions from other countries. Already television companies in France, Germany, Holland, Canada and Japan have expressed a willingness to cooperate on a reciprocal basis, making one programme in return for the rights to the rest of the series.

"The films will all be professionally produced," stresses Gareth Wardell, "and of course the groups we use will be paid. But that is all we have decided at the moment. Everything else will depend on the young people we meet... No - there is one other thing we're clear about. *It's Our Life* is definitely not a talent show. We are positively not looking for would-be telly stars. It's ordinary kids we're after. They are the ones we want to hear from."

Hugh David

Interested groups can contact Gareth Wardell at Jam Jar Films in Edinburgh on 031-449 7227 or Ken Howard at Landseer Productions on 01-240 3161.

Willy Loman in Peking

Lynne Truss previews tonight's 'Omnibus'

Omnibus: The Salesman Goes to China Tonight, BBC1, 10.15

Arthur Miller has never shrunk from claiming universal status for Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*, and time seems to have proved him right. Since it was written in 1949 *Salesman* has been successfully produced throughout the western world. "Everybody wants to play Willy," says Miller in tonight's *Omnibus* - and every audience seems to understand the nature of Willy's very American tragedy.

But surely as the 1940s recede, and as we believe less and less in the American Dream, the power of the play should diminish? And surely some cultures would not respond to it at all? Recently Willy's "common humanity" was put to the ultimate test, when Miller himself directed *Salesman* in the last place on earth, China. Tonight's programme shows rehearsal and production at the People's Art Theatre in Peking (or Beijing), and shows how Miller made a case for Willy Loman in a country where not only are there no salesmen, but where there isn't even a word for "individualism".

One in the eye

The greatest danger in visiting the impressive Long Melford Church, Suffolk is to be hit in the eye with an arrow. The least is to get a crick in the 70 metre long painted reproduction of the Bayeux Tapestry.

The adjective "lofty" takes on a whole new meaning when applied to the nave and one suspects that whoever thought of showing this unique and well known commentary on our history so far above normal eye level must have held oblique sympathies for the Conqueror or shares in embroccation.

But it is there until July 31 and, with the aid of a guide book costing £1, the dizzy visitor will be able to trace the battle from Harold's incarceration after that shipwreck, his appealing promise to William, through the sail-

ing to England and those secret weapons, like the dishonesty of fighting from horseback instead of dismounting or the devastating use of ground-to-ground arrows, to the final debacle of Senlac Hill. The fall-out of arrows, lances, battle axes, horses, bishops, knights and common house-cars is overpowering. Money raised by this early example of strip cartooning goes towards the maintenance of a building that was not even a twinkle in the eye of the architects until more than 400 years after the Battle of Hastings. The reproduction, the same size as the original, was painted in France by Jean Allix and has been shown in Bayeux Cathedral. It has not been in this country before.

Ray Rushford



South Bank surprises

Philippa Davidson previews the National Festival of Music for youth

National Festival of Music for Youth South Bank July 12, 13, 14

Loud is never beautiful in the ears of the judges at the National Festival, a home truth which may have influenced Colin Panshawe's decision to form the Wakefield College Therapy Ensemble. The group explores a range of softly therapeutic sounds using voices, electronic instruments and amplified guitars. Because of the improvisatory nature of its work no two performances are the same. Just one reason why Mr Panshawe prefers the flexibility of the mixed ensemble to the wind band of which he was for many years the conductor. The Wakefield College group can be heard on Sunday, second day of the festival, too.

What's new at the festival this year? The programme at first glance looks impressive with familiar names: Birmingham recorders, Winchester Hill orchestra, Flut Pavani, Hilltop Ladans, and others. It is good to see that for the first time infants schools, when the scene of some of the most inventive primary music-making, have the morning to themselves on Friday. We can expect a big sound from the titles of the Solihull Infant Orchestra and the Tiny Tots Accordion Band - just as well, as we may not be able to see them over the tops of their instruments.

Later in the morning juniors take the stage at the Royal Festival Hall. Early music devotees will be pleased to see a record number of groups performing medieval music and drama: a dance group from Leominster junior school, and a George and the Dragon spectacular from the John Ray School, Colchester, recently performed as part of "Essex Entertainers" at the Royal Albert Hall.

Music theatre is as popular as ever. Madams school have modified their successful *Mary Poppins* show into a festival. The kids of Holmfrith High try to score again with a cricket drama, and if that doesn't draw the crowds away from the Oval then Scally School's selection from musicals of the 1930s just might. Ludlow School, whose *Willow Pattern* drama was highly acclaimed last year, have entered

the choral section (*Voices in concert*, Friday evening) with *Pandora*, which they will be performing alongside more traditional repertoire from some of the best of our school choirs.

There are no fewer than three steel bands, playing a mainly pop programme. Such is the versatility of the infectious steel drum it is equally at home with an *Etude* by Chopin - the first from Bolsover School, Chesterfield. While the judges are arguing about the suitability of the repertoire, the applause will almost certainly be bringing the house down.

In the past there has been a noticeable absence of Asian music. This is rectified this year with the Sabota brothers from Wolverhampton playing traditional Indian music on tabla, harmonium and electronic keyboard, an increasingly acceptable instrument for Indian music of the domestic variety. The boys are from Valley Park School, where, says their teacher, multi-ethnic music is on the curriculum for everyone. The Sabotas make their own arrangements with the help of members of their class, and the group is a family affair with skills passed on in true oral tradition.

Saturday is orchestras' day (school, area, open) culminating in a concert featuring four leading youth orchestras playing a varied programme of music including the Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto, the Shostakovich Festival Overture and, the only British work in the concert, Malcolm Arnold's Scottish Dances. Superlatives have been used to describe the Woking Chamber Orchestra under the 17-year-old conductor Robert Ault. The finale comes from Southampton who play out the evening with a reputedly electrifying performance of Wagner's *Rienzi* overture.

"The miners' strike and the severe winter disrupted the auditions this year," says Jenn Halford Thompson, the festival's administrator. Those who did make it to the South Bank promise their audiences a musical marathon which, if not exactly therapeutic, is sure to be stimulating and full of surprises.

The National Festival of Music for Youth is sponsored by the Rank Organisation, The Times Educational Supplement, Commercial Union Assurance and the Association of Music Industries.

Bin it

Waste Not, Want Not Learning Through Action, Reading

Learning Through Action's infant programme is not so much about old-fashioned thrift as about the current need for energy conservation and recyclable resources. It is all set in an organic meadow just outside the global village - Farmer Dal is of introductory ecology - There are bits of introductory identifying butterflies in the meadow and rescuing hedgehogs which have got caught up in those plastic strips that go round the top of supermarket bags - but things don't really get going until the Flying Lemon Circus arrives.

It doesn't have any animals (this is TIE after all, and World Wildlife Fund-purposed TIE to boot) but it is a very neat *deus ex machina*. With the active participation of every child, it develops an act and in the space of half an hour or so performs it, delighting the children with a riot of colour and noise - and distracting them totally from the fact that preparation and performance have covered the meadow with all manner of litter and rubbish.

Farmer Dal reappears and dragons helping him clear up the mess. Sacks are filled with the stuff. Paper and rags go into one; tins, bottles and plastic packaging are sorted into three others and then it's off to the recycling plant.

Although it doesn't take very long, this final section is the heart of the programme. Various experts arrive and join Farmer Dal in a song which explains how paper can be recycled into corrugated cardboard, how bottles are crushed to make something called cullet which is itself then used to make more bottles, how tins can be melted down to make more tins... and, horror of horrors, how there is little or nothing which can be done with used plastic at the moment.

The information-load is surprisingly high, but the children absorb it happily. Their concern aroused, by the end of an hour or so they are also racking their brains to invent some way of disposing of all that plastic. Write and let me know if you find one, Farmer Dal tells them. Apparently considering the fun they have had working through some of the follow-up projects suggested in a practical accompanying teacher's pack.

Hugh David

Among this week's contributors

Celia Haddon is the author of *The Powers of Love*, published by Michael Joseph. Hugh Stephenson is the author of *Claret and Chips: the rise of the SDP* (Michael Joseph, 1982).

Next week

David Wright on gay Byron; Third World literature

I lie in my metal cot...

Celia Haddon on the Spastics Society's annual literary contest

Kevin Paterson types not with two fingers, but with one - slowly. The cerebral palsy athetoid from which he suffers makes his body movements difficult to control. His speech, too, is severely impaired.

But Kevin, who comes from Annan, Dumfriesshire, can write. Last month at the annual Literary Contest run by the Spastics Society, the laboriously typed manuscript of his short story "An Alien's View of a Fox Hunt" showed that he can turn out a polished piece of prose to the highest standards of any of his 16-year-old contemporaries who do not have his handicap.

Runner-up to Kevin was 14-year-old Becky Osborne from Portlindorwic, Gwynedd, whose spinal atrophy limits her growth and confines her to a wheelchair. Becky's short romance, "The Wedding", was an accomplished example of the contemporary romance genre.

The message of the Annual Literary Contest of the Spastics Society, whose prize giving took place on June 17, is that talent and creativity are not confined to the able bodied. The recognition awarded to past winners like the poet Christy Nolan has proved the point in the world outside the Spastics Society.

All the judges - Lady Wilson, wife of the former prime minister, literary agent George Greenfield, broadcaster Hunter Davies of the BBC programme *Bookshelf* and myself - agreed that the final out of the 750 entries were impressive.

"I think if you are starting to write poetry, it ought to be easily understandable," Lady Wilson told the audience at the prize giving, as she awarded the first prize to 16-year-old Jennifer Richards from Barrow in Cumbria, and the second to 12-year-old Sharon Willows from Grantham, who suffers from spina bifida.

"Cloud strong rhymes" and a "surprising and satisfactory" end to what Lady Wilson liked about the poem which won the adult section - "Anarchy in Birdland", an updated version of the Cock Robin story by Michael Hopkins from Merseyside, a married man aged 36 whose hearing is impaired.

Michael Hopkins is already working on a novel and other poems, but for some of the winners, the contest had offered an opportunity to do something entirely new. Francis Callaghan, a 36-year-old storekeeper from Warrington whose poem won the second prize, had never before written one. It was the poster for the competition which gave me the inspiration," he told me. Titled "Song of Silence" - reflections on becoming totally deaf", it began:

"The songs I heard on my mother's knee
No more no more.
The ballads my father sang,
Silent for evermore."
Nearly all of the winners scored over the able bodied in persistence. "It's

really hard work to bash things out on a typewriter," explained Alan Richard Pickard, a 54-year-old former travel representative from Cardiff, now in a wheelchair because of multiple sclerosis. He won the Jeffrey Archer trophy for outstanding literary merit for a short story titled "Moment of Truth", about a bullfighter. Rewriting the story three times, easy enough in physical terms for most people, had cost Alan Pickard considerable effort. Winning made it all worthwhile.

"What I was looking for was a good story well told," said judge George Greenfield who awarded the first prize to Nicola Naylor of Clapham who is blind, and the second prize to Ian C. Strachan from Gainsborough who also has visual difficulties, but who has published short stories in collections such as the Pan Book of Horror Stories.

A telling story in the general interest section came from Cathal O'Phiblin, aged 24, who suffers from achondroplasia, a condition which has limited his growth and confined him to a wheelchair. For him, too, the competition acted as a spur to try something new. His article, *A Day in View*, was described by Hunter Davies as "A day of no events in which nothing happens seen from a 'cot' in a hospital... done flatly, very well written and very understated. I'll remember it for a long time."

"Six am and I am fourth in line to be got up," wrote Cathal, in the first article he had ever attempted. "As I awake, the first thing that comes into my view is the ceiling above me, dark pink with green supports going from side to side. I lie in my metal cot, waiting... After being in the same position since I was last turned two hours ago my legs are stiff and I am perspiring with the heavy blankets on top of me. I feel just like kicking them off to let in some air." Cathal, who lives in a residential home, explained "It's the first thing I've written. It's something I've always wanted to do. I had to start somewhere. Now I'd like to write something else."

The runner-up in this section was Mrs Joyce Saunders, aged 62, who has cancer, a collapsed spine, and difficulty in walking. She wrote the true story of how riding a Welsh black pony had restored her "not just physically, but emotionally". Now she is wondering whether to go on to write the full story in a book. For the competition does not just give pleasure to the winners: it can act as a spur to further writing efforts. And for talented young people like Kevin, writing offers a chance of self expression which his handicap otherwise denies him.

RETURNING THIS AUTUMN

9 OCTOBER-14 DECEMBER

GLENDA JACKSON



TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN BY
ROBERT DAVID MACDONALD
DIRECTED AND DESIGNED BY
PHILIP PROWSE

ALDWYCH THEATRE

ALDWYCH, LONDON WC2

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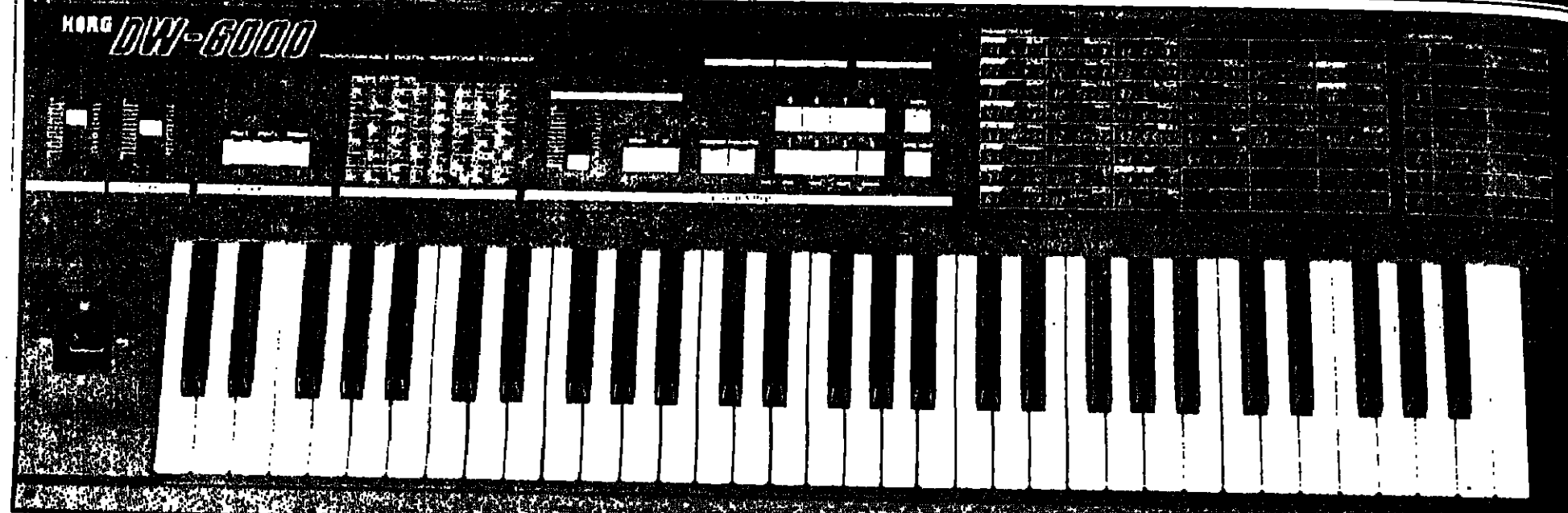
Planet Wales

Planet: The Welsh Internationalist. Bi-monthly from PO Box 44, Aberystwyth. £1.50 at bookshops.

All through the Seventies Ned Thomas produced 50 issues of *Planet*, and in those days the dominant issues were devolution and the rights of the Welsh language. Its departure left a vacuum which no other journal seemed to fill, while in the bleak Eighties, different themes seemed to become more urgent.

So now it re-emerges, with the aid of the Welsh Arts Council, solid and handsomely produced, reflecting (in English) current Welsh preoccupation - the aftermath of the miners' strike, the peace movement, the two recent television series on Welsh history, as well as a raft of poetry, literary matters and a story with a classroom setting. It avoids parochialism, for it even discusses, cogently, the topic of a nuclear-free Pacific. The new *Planet* deserves to survive.

Collin Ward



Key control

Martin Walley gives guidelines on how to choose a synthesizer for the music department

Advances in electronic technology have made synthesizers available and accessible to all. However, selecting the right product from the increasing wide range of excellent keyboards currently entering the market can be a problem. Although each of the new breed of synthesizers is versatile, it is important to choose an instrument with specific applications in mind, making a decision based on the uses to which the synthesizer will be put.

Until recently the high-tech catchphrase was chips for everything. The prime steal is Musical Instrument Digital Interface. This allows the simple interconnection of one synthesizer with others. Perhaps more significantly, it also enables linkage with microcomputers. Because of the vast potential of MIDI, it is not worth considering a synthesizer without this facility.

Another requirement is a headphone socket, invaluable for reducing stress among music teachers as pupils insist on relentlessly programming new sounds. Most synthesizers – but not all – will have one. For group listening, separate amplification will always be required. A stereo system with something more substantial is essential for performance. The cost of adequate amplification should be included in the overall budget.

The actual keyboard element of the synthesizer requires consideration. Few have solid "piano" keys, but some are weighted to give a similar feel. The real choice is between sensitive and non-sensitive keyboards. Touch and velocity sensitive keyboards enable dynamics and effects to be introduced by the player's fingers.

The decision will largely depend on price: clearly touch and velocity sensitive keyboards are preferable. Additional performance nuances are available on instruments with after-touch. This contributes to the player's control by allowing effects to be introduced by secondary key pressure.

By definition, all polyphonic synthesizers are capable of producing more than one note at a time. The number ranges from four to 16. More than 10 notes may appear to place excessive demands on the dexterity of the player, but this capability prevents the abrupt disappearance of fading notes. Six or eight note polyphonies are perfectly satisfactory for general use, and for non-specialist keyboardists, and for multi-track recording and computer sequencing where parts are overdubbed and a composition gradually orchestrated.

The ability to program sounds – recalling a complex setting of many controls at the touch of a button – has been one of the most fundamental moves in making synthesizers valuable for school use. Programming is the partial or complete editing of factory sounds. It is imaginative programming which enables the player to create music that is truly unique.

Incremental control adjustment is used on most of the latest synthesizers. A parameter is selected and its value altered with Up and Down buttons. Sometimes this operation is speeded up with a single slider control. A drawback is that only one control setting is displayed at a time. To fully analyse a sound each parameter has to be cycled up and the value noted.

Analogous controls are more easily set and can be altered in performance. They lack the precision of putting in a number for each parameter, but the position of each control gives an

The GCSE exam proposals will have a profound influence on the use of synthesizers in schools. There is to be a shift towards the production of real music – not academic exercises – and since the music should relate directly to each pupil's experience, a wide range of styles is to be encouraged in each of the main components: performing, composing and listening. This includes pop and experimental work to which synthesizers are eminently suited, if not essential.

Over the last few years some music teachers have come to recognize the value of the synthesizer, but the proposals will persuade many others to experience the new electronic wizardry for the first time.

Performing: Candidates are to choose their own music, but will also be required to improvise and sight-read. As the synthesizer is accessible to candidates with no outside instrumental tuition, and is invaluable in pop ensembles, it will become fully accepted as a worthwhile performance instrument.

Composing: Nothing enlarges the composer's palette more than the synthesizer. The proposed criteria specifically state the possibility of combining them with other instruments, and now that work can be submitted on tape, the ease of recording

instant indication of each setting. Sound data can be stored in the internal memory or, like computer programs, be transferred to cassette tape in a few seconds. Some manufacturers have introduced cartridge (ROM/RAM) storage which is convenient but more expensive. Cassette storage is particularly useful for schools as it permits each user to have a personal store of sounds.

The chief consideration must always be the characteristic sound quality. Some synthesizers are best suited to simulating a range of instruments and acoustic sounds. Others are better at creating effects and the "fat" sounds more commonly associated with the synthesizer. Playing through the factory programs gives a good initial impression of each synthesizer's unique voice.

When evaluating today's synthesizers, the touchstones must be the Yamaha DX7 (£1,449). It has a five-octave, 16 note polyphonic keyboard. There are 32 internal memories and additional ROM/RAM storage of extra sounds. Incremental controls and a slider are used to adjust parameter settings.

Initial and after-touch sensitivity make the DX7 an exceptionally musical instrument. A Breath Controller also adds to performance nuances when playing saxophone parts. Notes played on the keyboard only sound when the performer blows into the mouthpiece, creating an excellent simulation of the real thing.

The FM synthesis used in the DX7 is capable of producing an enormous range of sounds. Bells, harps, strings and brass are extremely convincing and many acoustic sounds in recent pop and experimental music have been produced by this instrument.

However, programming is not easy and the instruction manual does not give quite enough information to help the new player. Linking the DX7 to a Yamaha CX5M microcomputer is one solution as this can display the setting of each control in graph form.

Two ROM cartridges – 64 factory programs on each – are supplied with the DX7. Many professional performers simply use these, as students will quickly realize when listening to recent

parts with keyboards will make them an essential tool for many enthusiastic writers.

Listening: With the increasing application of electronic technology in modern music, a working knowledge of synthesizers becomes a necessary aid to analysis. Also, aural perception can be developed as the programming of sounds requires careful listening to subtle changes of timbre and pitch.

Once the advantages of using synthesizers are generally recognized, it is likely that MIDI-equipped instruments will be widely used with computers. Applications include digital multi-track recording and the notation of parts. These allow pupils to combine musical skills with the ability to operate microcomputers creatively.

Above all, GCSE music courses will enable pupils to create high-quality music of their own. The synthesizer provides any student with an instrument. It is immediately capable of producing good sounds, and there is virtually no limit to the possibility of its application and to the demands it can impose on the player. This combination makes it ideal for GCSE work.

pop records. Six new ROM packs (£55 each) have been introduced by Yamaha to increase the range of sounds without the need for user programming.

The Korg Poly 800 (£614) is a four-octave, non-touch sensitive, four or eight note polyphonic. In the eight note mode each key controls one digital oscillator, but sounds can be filled out with the stereo chorus. More sophisticated sounds can be produced in Double mode when each key controls two oscillators. A six-stage envelope generator also contributes to the control of the performer.

Especially appealing is the portability of the Poly 800. When powered by batteries – rechargeable ones would be advisable – and used with headphones, it can be played anywhere.

The Poly 800 has 64 internal memories and programming is relatively straightforward. Korg manuals are written with the first-time user in mind; each control is clearly explained. As with many synthesizers, the fascia panel has few knobs and buttons. Each parameter is called up and adjusted incrementally. A chart showing the settings of all factory sounds is supplied and studying this is a good way of seeing how sounds are built up.

One of the best features of the Poly 800 is the stepless, 256 note sequencer. This enables a part to be programmed into the Poly 800 which can be played by any keyboard using MIDI connections. Program and sequencer data is retained in the internal memory, but can be transferred to cassette tape.

As with many synthesizers there is an expanded version of the Poly 800. The EX-800 (£479) is small and strongly constructed with very positive controls. This expander, connected by MIDI leads to the Poly 800, allows one keyboard to control two separate synthesizers. MIDI connection also allows both on-board sequencers to be synchronized. One can play a bass line linked to the MIDI-equipped external rhythm unit.

Korg's DW6000 (999) is an interesting new addition to the market. It is a five-octave, non-touch sensitive,

six note polyphonic, again with 64 internal memories, tape dump and six-stage envelope generator. Digital waveforms encoded in the DW6000 are capable of successfully producing a range of sounds, acoustic and synthetic. Factory programs such as Marimba have much of the DX7's clarity and realism while other sounds such as Synth Brass are marked by a rich fullness of texture.

New sounds can be easily programmed in much the same way as the Poly 800 with Up and Down buttons. The process is speeded up with a slider control which allows a rapid shift from one extreme of a setting to another.

The analogue controls of the Siel DK600 (£999) are a useful feature for school use. This six-note polyphonic can internally store 95 programs. Velocity sensitivity, a five-octave keyboard, 12 digital oscillators, three stages of sound data add to the value of this instrument.

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Several synthesizers and ancillary equipment can be supported by a Solasound multi-tier stand. Stable and adjustable, they are suitable for both classroom work and performance.

Selecting the most appropriate synthesizer primarily involves assessing sound character, keyboard response and ease of programming. In addition, potential MIDI applications should be high on the list of priorities. A synthesizer acquired with these criteria in mind will be one of the most useful resources of any music department.

Addresses:
Korg, 32-34 Gordon House Road, London NW5 1NE.
Yamaha, Mount Avenue, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK1 1JE.
Siel (UK) Limited, Aired Depot, Relgate Road, Hookwood, Horley, Surrey RH8 6AY.
Roland (UK) Limited, Great West Trading Estate, 983 Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9DN.
Casio, 1000 North Circular Road, London NW2 7JD.
Akai, Haslemere Heathrow Estate, Slough, Berkshire SL1 1NF.
Solosound, 18 Barton Way, Croydon, Surrey CR8 3JF.
Green, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1JF.

Roland products which deserve consideration are the JX-8P (£1,400) and the Juno 106 (£925). Both are five-octave, six note polyphonies. The 106 has slider controls and a large internal memory capacity of 128 sounds which can be transferred to cassette.

The JX-8P is both touch and velocity sensitive. It uses digital access for parameter adjustment, but an add-on PG-800 programmer (£200) enables each control to be set with a slider. The JX-8P is supplied with a total of 96 internal sounds. Sixty-four are pre-set which cannot be overwritten, although they can be used as a starting point for new sounds. The remaining user-programmable memories can be expanded to 64 with a M-16C RAM cartridge (£45). Typically, memory content can be stored on cassette.

Casio's CZ1000 (£545) is a four-octave synthesizer. Sound is produced by a method termed Phase Distortion and the 33 waveforms combined with a multi-edge envelope generator result in many DX-like sounds. It has 16 permanent pre-set memories and 16 which are user-programmable. A cartridge slot enables RAM storage of a further 16.

The AX80 (£1,400) produced by Akai uses fluorescent displays to give an overall indication of each parameter setting. Thirty-two of the 96 memories are non-programmable pre-set, although like the JX-8P these can be used as a starting point for sounds to be stored elsewhere. All can be dumped on to cassette. Velocity sensitivity makes this five-octave, eight note polyphonic an interesting synthesizer first from Akai.

MIDI-ing equipment greatly increases the range of applications. A more conventional synthesizer connected to a DX7 complements its acoustic precision with more traditional synthetic sounds. One of these add-on synthesizers could be a Korg or Siel expander which would save space and cut costs.

A convenient combination for some schools would be MIDI-equipped electric piano and synthesizer expander. This would provide an extra piano which doubles as a synthesizer control keyboard.

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Green, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1JF.

Sharing the Skag Kids Kicking the Habit Central Television

Can television help solve the drugs problem? On the strength of these programmes, the answer must be a guarded "yes" because both attack some of the media myths associated with heroin. The trouble with LWT's *Saving the Skag Kids* (glossily packaged, recorded at the street Cred Albany Empire in Deptford and chaired by Michael Parkinson) was that it suffered from an excess of experts. All very well for getting lots of information across, but not so good for reaching conclusions.

The programme, rather pretentiously billing itself as a "conference", was in reality an extended studio discussion with video inserts. It divided into four neat (too neat, perhaps?) sections – the nature of the problem, controlling drugs supply, prevention, and coping with the use of drugs. David Turner, Coordinator of the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse was rightly keen to put the problem in perspective. Most people use drugs. Tobacco and alcohol kill more people than heroin. Heroin users' lifestyle, with the attendant risks of septicaemia and hepatitis, causes as much danger as chemical dependence. But the argument about why some people are at risk – pre-disposition versus peer pressure – went unresolved.

The conclusions on control were almost unanimously pessimistic. Most British street heroin begins life on the remote and politically volatile Pakistan-Afghanistan borders. Pakistani governmental attempts at control seem useless and the funds, to which British subsidies, aimed at encouraging substitute crops, are laughably inadequate according to Michael Mewcher MP. The heroin poppy is the most lucrative crop in the world. Our hard pressed customs apparently aren't equal to the task of import control either. For anyone, including the crime organisations who have turned from bank robbery to drugs dealing, the potential reward still outweighs the risk. The only glimmer of hope lies in the seizure of drug-derived assets, which may make big dealers think again.

Perhaps more disturbing was education writer Paul Flather's report on education and deterrence. His point, endorsed by Americans in the studio who have seen the problems develop along the same lines in the US, was that scare tactics, like the government's "Heroin Screws You Up" television campaign, don't work. Worse still, they may have an accidentally opposite effect. As one contributor put it, talking about the 1970 US horror-drama *Better Dead*: "The morbid

side at the back of the class might be fascinated by it, and use drugs as a way to say to teachers 'I'll show you'." What's more, the scare films encourage unsympathetic attitudes to users who are trying to get off heroin.

Paul Flather even suggested that health education in schools, based on open minded discussion is no guarantee that young people won't experiment. What was clear from the programme was the unanimity that schools must play a part, going deeper than simply "doing" drugs in a week before going on to, say, "doing" sex.

The final section on how to treat users was by far the least conclusive, with the de-criminalizers (whose arguments are that users are less likely to seek help because of the illegality of possession and that punishment acts against the interests of therapy) against the more orthodox speakers, who see de-criminalization as a form of licence. One convincing argument was that the isolated county treatment centres might be better replaced by community based ones, because ex-users, divorced from their environment during treatment at one of these isolated homes, still have to face their homes on discharge. A community-based alcohol treatment centre, where users can go home at night was shown as a parallel.

Saving the Skag Kids offered lots of useful information and challenged many outdated but nevertheless accepted theories. It also carried some

centre, only to discover later that there are no vacancies for months and months. Thus, the optimistic of *Jobwatch* is leavened with a little realism.

As background to the series, Granada and the Manpower Services Commission contracted MORI to poll 350 people, employed and unemployed, in each of the four contrasting towns *Jobwatch* visited – Kings Lynn, Motherwell, Coventry and Reading. The poll makes it clear that employers and individuals alike, particularly older adults, give adult training a low priority, despite the changing times. Although they do recognize the need to acquire new skills, they are often confused about what is an offer and what is a demand. Peter, for example, is delighted by the prospect of a welding course at his local skills

VIDEO
The Living Soil
16mm colour
9 minutes
Video VHS £75.00 (plus VAT).
Sales inquiries to: Educational Media International, 25 Boileau Road, London W5 3AL.

This is a non-narrative film; there is a central introductory statement preceding the main body of the film. The film is an impressive introduction to the programme. After that, often in slow motion, show the

MEDIA



Drug styles

by Nick Baker

shots of people using heroin, a practice that many people think should be stopped for obvious reasons. Too many experts, though. It's not so much that they spoil the broth, but that they argue for too long about its ingredients.

Twenty per cent of heroin addicts die as a result of their addiction. Fifty per cent, though, stop using the drug. Figures like these seem to make a nonsense of the current anti-drugs advertisement, which depicts heroin as an inescapable. Central's documentary, *Kicking the Habit* (shown on Tuesday), is the source of these figures. One of its main targets must be the estimated 70,000 British users. For them, the media's current hysterical image of heroin addiction as an uncontrollable fatal disease must be an added cause for despair. The programme concentrates on various different successful escapes from the drug, and in so doing provides a glimmer of hope for addicts and those who come into contact with them.

The trouble with programmes like this is, of course, that addicts, for the most part, are boring. For the non addict, there's always the smug feeling that he or she is watching people with a self inflicted illness. Like road accidents or burglary, "it couldn't happen to me". Of course, it could happen to one of your family, your friend, or your pupil. What this documentary shows clearly is that kicking the habit depends on the attitudes of others

nearly as much as it does those of the addict.

That's why Sian, a pretty 19-year-old decides to go off to a country cottage and try to withdraw over a period of days, with the help of a sympathetic boyfriend. No apologies to hard line anti-sexists for calling Sian pretty. She describes herself as a model and is trying to get into the rock world. Being pretty is one of the tools of her trade and heroin is blunting its edge. When we meet her, she's not really pretty at all. She lies in bed, moaning, sweating, talking endlessly about herself. It's a painful and claustrophobic cure and the boyfriend, an ex-user himself, has an emergency pack of heroin in case she can't cope. Thankfully she can. Three days later, she's back with her father (a curiously nonchalant figure) and three months later she's got a job, having stayed "almost" clean.

Russell too has a job, thanks to his mum. She found out he was addicted when he was on trial for burglary. The NHS told Janice, the mum, to come back in six weeks, and until then, never let Russell out of her sight. She took them at their word, treating the young man like an errand six-year-old. Initially, he hated her for it, but now he's clean, he has reason to be thankful. Encouraged by her experience, Janice started a self-help group in Chester, which now offers what amounts to a 24-hour "addict minding" service with a high success rate.

Kicking the Habit also showed the work of two long term residential projects for addicts. Part of Phoenix House's 80 per cent successful cure is to rid addicts of their self image as tragic heroes. Specially silly exercises have been devised. Confrontation (always staged-looking on TV) is used to get rid of self pity and anger.

What the programme doesn't stress enough is the pressing need for funding of more help institutions like these. What it does identify, through the explanation of Dr Brian Wells, an ex-addict himself and now a therapist, is the stages, likened to those of bereavement, that a withdrawer is likely to go through – despair, anger, depression and finally acceptance. Dr Wells also emphasized that in the past too much therapy was based on medical and psychological factors and not enough on "social" ones.

Both programmes produced support material. *Saving the Skag Kids* available by writing on to: DRUGS Box 33, London SE1 9LT, summarizes the debate and provides questions for further discussion and contains a useful list of addresses. *Kicking the Habit*, available with SAE from Kicking the Habit, Box 96, Birmingham B1 2LJ describes the various approaches to withdrawal. Another booklet – *Heroin, a Problem for the Family* is available from the same address.

Despite such irritations the supporting booklet, available from job centres and Granada, is another act of co-operation. The text of "Looking at Your Future", produced by COIC, is fairly standard. This is not to belittle its value, as it contains much useful information on how to exemplify stock and making a fresh start, ideas central to the programmes themselves. (Not all viewers are aficionados of the education and training worlds.) Less standard, however, is the prominence that *Jobwatch* gives to the booklet. All too often supporting print containing essential information and contacts is hastily tacked on to the programmes as if an intrusive after-thought. Granada steers well clear of this trap.

Overall, as long as Granada can keep a balance between opportunity and hard-nosed reality, there is every chance that some adults at least will be tempted to seize opportunities that they may not, hitherto, have even considered.

New skills

by Jean Sargeant

CONTINUING EDUCATION
Jobwatch
TV, Sundays 12.30pm
Repeated Fridays 12.30pm.

The theme of this second series is about "acquiring new skills". The tone is optimistic: life may be tough, and getting tougher, but opportunities are there for those who are willing to learn new skills and take advantage of the opportunities.

The eight programmes look at the labour market through the eyes of individuals who, whether employed or not, want a change of job. Mary, who wants to swap her job as a secretary for an insurance firm for a hairdressing and beauty partnership with her daughter, is typical. So too is Peter, currently unemployed, but interested in becoming self-employed as a welder. Not everyone does well or gets what he or she wants. Peter, for example, is delighted by the prospect of a welding course at his local skills

centre, only to discover later that there are no vacancies for months and months. Thus, the optimistic of *Jobwatch* is leavened with a little realism.

As background to the series, Granada and the Manpower Services Commission contracted MORI to poll 350 people, employed and unemployed, in each of the four contrasting towns *Jobwatch* visited – Kings Lynn, Motherwell, Coventry and Reading. The poll makes it clear that employers and individuals alike, particularly older adults, give adult training a low priority, despite the changing times. Although they do recognize the need to acquire new skills, they are often confused about what is an offer and what is a demand. Peter, for example, is delighted by the prospect of a welding course at his local skills

"Jobwatch Advice Centre", featured in the series and staffed by further education and MSC staff.

The need for adult training and how to get it are central not only to *Jobwatch* but to the MSC's Adult Training Campaign. Consequently, co-operation between the MSC and Granada is hardly surprising. Even so, together they can only go so far and the producer sees no reason to resist a sideways aim at the MSC for cutting skill centre places in welding.

Chosen vocational areas, when it is possible, are vocational areas for welders exist in Coventry. Perhaps in reality it is simply difficult to create an exact match between individual local needs and the broad sweeps of national priorities.

On this theme with a superb sequence showing the body of a dead mouse slowly decaying on the ground until only the skeleton remains, a beautiful illustration of the cycle of life in the soil.

This is artistically a very attractive film indeed: the photography is very good and the visual impact high. Some will find the intensity of the music an irritation, but you can always turn the sound down. As a resource to introduce the topic of the soil – or to act later as consolidation – it has much merit. The only problem is the price.

John A Barker

briefings radio & tv

Continuing education and general interest

BACK IN 25 MINUTES
(Saturday, 15.00 VHF4)

The third in this series on back-ache finds Dr Alan Mayon-Davies concentrating on recurring or chronic back pain and offering a tip on how to help prevent it.

BACK ON COURSE
(Sunday, 17.30 VHF4)

Reports by Margaret Korving from collages around the country on the range of courses available to those over 21.

CIVILIZATION AND THE JEWS
(Sunday, 19.15 C4)

An examination of Jewish immigration to the United States begins in the 1880s with the movement of Eastern European Jews. Abba Eban uses archive materials to show the link between the American ideal of democracy and the Jewish heritage of freedom.

ANTIGONE AT BRADFELD
(Sunday, 22.15 R4)

A Greek tragedy has been performed every three years for a century by the boys of Bradfield College in their own amphitheatre. Christopher Stace, the producer, and members of the cast discuss the tradition, the value of the productions and their chances of survival.

ELLISON ST REVISITED
(Tuesday, 20.30 R4)

The third of four programmes where Gordon Cooper tracks down his 11+ classmates of 1956. What are they doing now? How have the economic and social changes in the Sixties and Seventies affected them?



MOZART'S UNFINISHED
(Wednesday, 21.00 C4)

An inquiry conducted by John Julius Norwich into the work of Philip Wilby from Leeds University. Wilby has placed together the music of Mozart's unfinished "Triple Concerto", which is performed here by the Amadeus Trio.

MUSIC FUSION
(Wednesday, 23.00 C4)

A fusion of music stretching across 4,000 years and 6,000 miles from the traditional airs of the Indus Valley to western classical orchestral arrangements.

ROY NORRY'S 5-6-7 SHOW
(BBC Radio Clyde, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9.00am-10.00am)

Three radio programme inserts by pupils from Clyde schools participating in the Clyde Media Studies Unit CPVE pilot module.

4 Titles Available For Recording from Sunday 14th July 1985
Approximate Transmission Times

Approximate Transmission Times		17th July 1990	
Sunday 14th July	8.30pm Diverse Reports For Code B	Friday 14th July	8.30pm Diverse Reports For Code B
5.00pm Back To The Room: Series 1 - Repeat For Code B		8.45pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
Monday 15th July	8.45pm A Week In Politics For Code B	8.55pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
4.00pm What's Down In It Anyway? - What's Down? - Repeat For Code B		9.05pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
Tuesday 16th July	9.15pm A Week In Politics For Code B	9.15pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
2.30pm Anything We Can Do: Series 1: Where Do You Want It - Repeat For Code B		9.25pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
Wednesday 17th July	9.35pm A Week In Politics For Code B	9.35pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
6.00pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 1 For Code B		9.45pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
8.00pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 2 For Code B		9.55pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
8.15pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 3 For Code B		10.05pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
8.30pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 4 For Code B		10.15pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
8.45pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 5 For Code B		10.25pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
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8.25pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 147 For Code B		10.05pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
8.35pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 148 For Code B		10.15pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
8.45pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 149 For Code B		10.25pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
8.55pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 150 For Code B		10.35pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
9.05pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 151 For Code B		10.45pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
9.15pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 152 For Code B		10.55pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
9.25pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 153 For Code B		11.05pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
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11.25pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 165 For Code B		1.05pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
11.35pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 166 For Code B		1.15pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
11.45pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 167 For Code B		1.25pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
11.55pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 168 For Code B		1.35pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
12.05pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 169 For Code B		1.45pm A Week In Politics For Code B	
12.15pm Video - Landscapes & Legends: The Horrors Of The Sea Part 170 For Code B		1.55pm A Week In Politics For Code B	



Victorious Americans welcomed in Paris in 1917 (above) and back home in 1945 (right); two of the illustrations to *Images of War*, by Rainer Fabian and Hans Christian Adam (New English Library £14.95).



Radical words and deeds

Anarchism. By David Miller. Dent £10.95. 0 460 10093 9. £4.95. 11093 4.
Marxist Aesthetics. By P. Johnson. Routledge and Kegan Paul £13.95. 0 7100 9927 4.
Insight and Vision: The Problem of Communism in Marx's Thought. By R. N. Berki. Dent £9.50. 0 460 11172 8. £3.95. 10172 2.

Of these works, only the first can be unreservedly recommended. It is a first-rate review of anarchist standpoints, considered in theory and in practice. The study is in three sections. The first discusses the varieties of anarchism, broadly grouped into three philosophical, individualist and communist. The second considers anarchism as a revolutionary ideology, dealing with its relation to Marxism, among others, to syndicalism, to ideas of violence and terror. Anarchist notions of humane nature and historical progress are discussed. The final section is an assessment of the achievements, failures and value of anarchism. A select bibliography is given. There are more comprehensive accounts of a number of these topics, of use to specialists in the several fields. But as a general introduction, it is hard to think of a work that covers so much ground in so small a compass. The approach is refreshingly disinterested, concerned to explain what the several varieties of anarchist thinkers thought, the strengths and weaknesses of their several views, and finally the strengths and weaknesses of what the author takes to be the essential ideas which distinguish anarchism as such from other political philosophies. One might not agree with everything put forward; but where so much is excellent, it would be mere affectation to call attention to slight imperfections.

The fundamentals of Marxism taken for granted as correct, *Marxist Aesthetics* would have to be acknowledged as a compendious review of the notion of aesthetics, and of the revolutionary function of works of art, as discussed by Lukács, Benjamin, Brecht, Adorno, Marcuse, Althusser, Macherey and Eagleton. One would be obliged to note that the treatment of the several thinkers is often adequate, but marred by the polemical undertone so common to works supposedly having a practical revolutionary purpose.

It is when Marxism is not accepted as the self-evidently correct theory, that the work shows its nature. It is a piece of modern scholasticism in which what ought to be questioned, namely, the fundamentals, is taken for granted. The discussion, carried on in the required radical left polysyllabic jargon, proceeds in nubes, without ever deigning to put foot to ground. Any one not sharing the basis will find the work tedious and pretentious, one of those in which humourless gravity is erroneously taken to be the index of profound thought.

R. N. Berki's immensely laboured study sets out to show that the ideas of Marx the visionary and those of Marx the realist are at bottom incompatible, and that Marx's life-work is a long attempt to bring these incompatibilities together that ended in failure, possibly acknowledged at last by Marx himself.

Though it must be said that the examination of the "problem of communism" is thorough and detailed, and that the reader is left in no doubt of the complexity and many-sidedness of the problem, the work is of limited interest and becomes wearisome. Whether Marx, visionary and/or realist, still has something of theoretical or practical use to offer in the changed conditions of today is questionable. In the light of this, R. N. Berki's study seems scarcely worth the effort that went into producing it.

Pierre Walter

Snap out

Hugh David reports on a theatre company that is trying to lift drama out of the school English syllabus

The second and third years at London's Lavender Road Junior School sat in a circle on the floor to watch *A Day in the Life*, oblivious of the fact that they shouldn't have been seeing it at all. There was nothing unsuitable or subversive about the play. Quite the reverse; they were totally won over by its account of what it feels like to be wheelchair-bound. It was just that, even out there in Enfield, way beyond the Northern Line underground, Lavender Road is still nominally a London school, and as a general rule the Hertfordshire-based Snap Theatre Company does not work in London.

"We're quite happy up here," says its founder and artistic director Andy Graham, back at the company's office in Bishop's Stortford. "London's comparatively well-off for TIE and drama-in-education. Out here we're filling a gap. There's room to grow."

And grow the company has. Established only a little over five years ago on "£50 and a lot of ideas", currently it has four separate drama-in-education programmes touring both primary and secondary schools within a rough 50-mile radius of Bishop's Stortford. But, unlike many other theatre-in-education companies in this country, that is only the start. With the active encouragement of I.e.a.s in Hertfordshire and Essex and

some commercial and governmental sponsorship Snap also "fills a gap" by operating separate but complimentary youth and community drama programmes in the area.

It is this side of the company's work which makes it unique and more than superficially comparable to some of the much larger, state-funded youth theatre companies in Europe.

"There is so much more to drama, even as it affects young people, than you can possibly touch within the nine-to-four curriculum", Andy Graham explains.

In an attempt to clarify the relationship between the TIE companies and related community projects, he has produced a double-page community analysis, as complex as any industrial flow-diagram. But although administratively convenient, its columns and boxes artificially segregate the company's work into five distinct areas. In reality, there is a natural and inevitable overlap of interests.

Thus, although the TIE companies regularly play in youth clubs as well as schools (where they have pioneered the idea of evening shows open to parents and visiting teachers as well as children), the Snap People's Theatre Trust also oversees the work of a separate community theatre unit. Originally funded with a grant from the Manpower Services Commission, its family festivals and tours of outlying villages are now underwritten by the Suffolk and Bedfordshire County Councils and the East Herts District Council. And although that community theatre unit runs a young people's theatre scheme of its own, Snap is also responsible for the year-round work of the Bishop's Stortford Youth Theatre.

Andy Graham does not see any conflict of interests in such a diversified approach. Rather, he stresses its advantages. For one thing, the youth and community theatre programmes are already beginning to bring an informed, appreciative audience into the Harlow Playhouse and the Dance Centre in Bishop's Stortford. They are young and enthusiastic – the players and, more importantly, the parents of tomorrow.

More crucially, however, he believes that it is fundamentally wrong to compartmentalize drama and see it merely as a part of the school English syllabus. A qualified teacher himself, he is convinced that it deserves a much broader base and that its particular insights have much to offer

in every part of the curriculum. In maths, for instance. With characteristic boldness, Snap is currently preparing a junior school programme which integrates drama with maths and computer studies. Local subject inspectors have been actively involved with its preparation, their initial scepticism – born, Graham admits, of astonishment that anyone could come up with such an idea – now forgotten.

"They are only too happy to have been asked," Andy Graham goes on. "Most people are when they realize that drama can be of use to them."

When we did *The Call of the Wild*, our show about the exploitation of animals, the RSPCA were very keen to be involved. The Department of Industry and the Department of Trade came in on *The Energy Race* too when they realized it was about energy conservation."

Their sponsorship in fact, along with the more orthodox funding Snap receives from I.e.a.s and other bodies, is vital to the company's survival. It will enable Snap to undertake a national tour of *The Call of the Wild* and *The Energy Race*. "And so it should", says Graham. "As we enlarge and work more and more outside the classroom, we should be looking at 'extracurricular' funding."

In the present financial climate this is an argument which is hard to counter. Certainly its work in the wider community has not in any way compromised or diluted Snap's commitment to its primary role as a drama-in-education company. On the evidence of productions like *The Call of the Wild* it has immeasurably strengthened it.

"We're expanding; we haven't got time to be inward-looking", Andy Graham explains, hinting perhaps that a closer involvement with the outside world might also provide a mutually beneficial lifeline for other school-based drama companies.

I see no wheelchair: the Snap Theatre Company at Kingsmoor Juniors, Harlow (below).



Close your eyes or you won't see

Jaci Stephen looks at Poetry in Schools workshops

Close your eyes or you won't see what's going on... Adrian Mitchell delivers a warning on the dangers of imaginative travel. If the dinner ladies can keep their fingers under control, the silence of a gloomy school hall can be reconstructed: a long field, a stone wall, all viewed from above, aided by a newly acquired pair of wings.

"Flying Lesson" is an important element of an Adrian Mitchell workshop. Composed for primary school children, it encourages physical participation in response to a set of images.

"Poetry consists of body and mind, together at the same time; they are not separate things," says Mitchell, who has a refreshingly unpretentious view. "As soon as there's a tribe in a circle, you've got poetry."

Through a process of what he calls "controlled daydreaming", this inspired chieftain allows each member of the tribe to experience his/her own version of the given scene. The aim of the exercise is to create "visions" which, as Mitchell says, are one of the bases of poetry. I attended the success of the venture became apparent when, half an hour after re-landing, a small boy announced that he still had his feathers and wings. The appropriate remedy – three shoulder shakes and claps – was administered.

Language is a physical phenomenon and as quickly as we can lose the use of various parts of our bodies, so we cease to exercise our ability with words. A visiting writer to a school can introduce new ways of exercising lax muscles. At a time when many secondary schools function as operating theatres, removing all organs considered essential for the passing of exams, it is important to discover the capabilities of their own physical language. It is too late to call the writer in to sixth form to carry out an emergency appendectomy on a grumbling syntax.

Imaginative exercises can take many forms. Mitchell takes his groups out on a Poetry Hunt, the emphasis being on looking at things closely before returning to the classroom to write about them. Gillian Clarke, another poet widely experienced with children, is currently compiling a book

of such exercises aimed for use among primary and lower secondary children. Invention is an important element within them: "Cosmic Lies" – statements that cannot possibly be true; metaphor games involving the transference of one object's properties to another.

With Arts Council's attempts to make art inaccessible, and government cuts in education, "the writer" now finds him or herself ranked alongside other dying species. Although *Save the Whale* campaigns are better organized, these creatures have the distinct disadvantage of being 50 per cent blubber. If language continues to form a part of education (let us be optimistic), the writer may well prove to be a more profitable investment for the future.

Under present schemes organized by regional Arts Councils and the National Poetry Society, writers operating in schools serve two main functions: first, in the role of performer, usually a one-off visit and most often a poetry reading; and second, in the role of teacher, conducting a workshop in which the children are encouraged to discover the capabilities of their own physical language. It is too late to call the writer in to sixth form to carry out an emergency appendectomy on a grumbling syntax.

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The excessive emphasis on examinations in secondary schools is now spreading premature panic through the primary sector; the importance of craft is stressed at the expense of technique. It is, however, a perversion of craft – the art of pulling words apart in order to understand their construction. "Creative" writing allows reconstruction to take place, and understanding is increased by one's active participation as a writer.

What is rare in our present system is the art of language as an invention, a game. Children are told "There's no such word"; we might well ask Adrian Mitchell the meaning of "stiffuration" and other such words. Language is, above all, fun.

Despite popular opinion, writers are not invited into schools to undermine the teacher's ability. The hope is that the visits will encourage teachers to expand upon the work done.

South East Wales Arts abandoned their old scheme under which writers were invited for single readings or workshops, in an attempt to consolidate a different kind of relationship between teachers and writers. Hugo Perks, director, says:

"In the 1982-83 year, only 13 writers were used. We proposed a scheme of using a smaller number of writers working in residence who would be able to visit a group of schools on a regular basis. The I.e.a.s were in favour of the scheme and offered to meet our additional costs. There is therefore more money available for writers working in schools."

Naturally, the new proposals have angered many writers who cannot be included. It has the advantage, however, of providing the opportunity for a greater understanding between writers and teachers through in-service training. And most encouraging is the inclusion of primary schools, usually forgotten when the goodies are being handed out.

"Technique is what allows that first stirring of the mind round a word or an image or a memory to grow towards articulation," – to quote Heaney again – "... in terms of its own potential for harmonious self-reproduction." To stir, to grow, to reproduce: writing is an active process. Surely something we can deny no pupil of any age.

Church and state

Lindsay Boynton on background texts for European history

The Rise of the Great Powers. By Derek McKay and H. M. Scott. Longman £12.50. 0 582 48553 3. £6.95. 48553 4.

Richelieu and Olivares. By J. H. Elliott. Cambridge University Press £17.50. 0 521 26205 4. £5.95. 27857 0.

Noble Privilege. By Michael Bush. Manchester University Press £24.50. 0 7190 0931 6.

Armies and Warfare in Europe 1648-1789. By John Childs. Manchester University Press £16.50. 0 7190 0880 8.

Lordship and Patronage, Scotland 1603-1746. By Rosalind Mitchell. Edward Arnold £5.95. 0 7131 6313 5.

The World We Have Lost. By Peter Laslett. Methuen £12.95. 0 416 353401 1. £5.95. 35350 9.

The Birth of a Consumer Society. By Neil McKendrick et al. Hutchinson £8.50. 0 09 15486 1.

The Fall of the French Monarchy 1787-1792. By Michel Vovelle. Cambridge University Press £19.50. 0 521 24723 5. £7.95. 28916 5.

The Jacobin Republic 1792-1794. By Marc Bouloiseau. Cambridge University Press £19.50. 0 521 24726 8. £7.95. 28918 1.

The Thermidorean Regime and the Directory 1794-1799. By Denis Woronoff. Cambridge University Press £18.50. 0 521 24725 X. £6.95. 28917 3.

The English Catholic Church in the 19th Century. By Edward Norman. Oxford University Press £22.50. 0 19 822689 6.

European diplomatic history has come a long way since it was pursued for its own sake, divorced from the rest of history, in the dry-as-dust volumes of Lodge, or Grant and Temperley – still read by some university candidates. Infinitely more rewarding is McKay and Scott, which both clarifies the most complex diplomacy and relates it to political and economic events so that familiar ground becomes fresh.

Once the Bourbon-Hapsburg struggle was determined in 1756 the concept of a balance of power gave way to *raison d'état*, plus aggression based on dynastic or merely selfish claims. This was so overseas between Britain and France, but also in Europe between the other

Great Powers (as defined in 1763), Austria, Prussia and Russia. Nationalism did not count until the 1790s, when the French Revolution acted as a catalyst. Although the framework changed, the constant factor was necessity for a powerful army as the basis for diplomacy.

Armies were not merely tools of diplomacy but the very core of absolutist states, without which governments were ineffective. The problem was already acute by the 1650s, as Elliott shows in his elegantly-written study. Though Olivares paid lip-service to reason as the mainspring of statesmanship, he proclaimed "Reason is worth very little in the world where considerations of interest predominate". Their Protestant alliances demonstrated that both France and Spain already subordinated conscience to necessity of state; neither was yet able to mobilize adequate resources for sustained military and fiscal programmes. Childs points out that all European states felt the need for governmental reform at this time. However, Richelieu represented prevailing inertia in tolerating abuses, such as the sale of office, lest the house of cards should collapse.

Where was reform to begin? Nobles, who traditionally alternated between propping up and undermining their monarch, had to be tamed. Mitchell's highly readable book, which is important for England as well as Scotland, deals with the particular case of the subordination of the Scottish feudal nobility to the crown which, from 1603, of course, was worn by an absentee monarch. There was ample opportunity for political and religious scheming not only during the Rebellion but also after the Restoration when Lauderdale straddled both kingdoms.

Bush's impressively-documented European survey traces the aristocracy's gradual retreat from government while retaining fiscal and economic privileges as a bribe for accepting royal absolutism. This entailed professional bureaucracies, and standing armies – a "marvellous invention", says Childs. He explains the sense in which eighteenth-century wars were limited, citing the Austrian Netherlands as the perfect theatre for taking and exchange.

Clearly material goods were now unashamedly enjoyed: as in England, so in France where Vovelle discerns the secularization of upper-class life in

the displacement of religious values by "sensitivity" and its concomitant demand for solidity and majesty in architecture, and something approaching austerity in furniture. He reminds us that France under the ancien régime was a state which did not estimate future expenditure; nevertheless he argues that its demise was not accidental but due to opposition from the developing forces of production. If one development may illustrate the "new France" and its release of energy, it was the change in the army, from a royal to a popular instrument, which Bouloiseau examines in detail. Military duty became the supreme form of patriotism; nearly half the active male population was drafted. This was the only permanent achievement of the Jacobins. Bouloiseau stresses the "export" of revolution to Europe.

Woronoff, who makes the same point, also has to deal with the "recolonization" of France, which signified a conservative reaction. This had a European dimension. McKay discusses its diplomatic sequel, the Congress System. Its religious counterpart, the resurgence of ultramontane Catholicism, is very readably described by Norman. Whereas the Old Catholics were so discreet that Pitt had to read up their beliefs preparatory to the 1791 Relief Act, a century later Catholics, led by Vaughan, were a political force which achieved their colonial "rights" in the 1902 Act. In between there is a remarkable story, supported by a rich harvest of anecdotes.

British courts held that masses for the dead were "superstitious uses", money from the government to spend the money from Douai on the Brighton Pavilion. Wiseman, undeterred, introduced the New Devotionists to the Virgin and Counter-Reformation saints; the relics of St Chad (stored by Old Catholics and long since forgotten) were trotted out to add solemnity at the consecration of Birmingham Cathedral in 1841. It was Wiseman, nevertheless, who told students at Oscott that 40 years hence its professors would be endeavouring to prove not transubstantiation but the existence of God. Perhaps only his time-scale was wrong.

Though it must be said that the examination of the "problem of communism" is thorough and detailed, and that the reader is left in no doubt of the complexity and many-sidedness of the problem, the work is of limited interest and becomes wearisome. Whether Marx, visionary and/or realist, still has something of theoretical or practical use to offer in the changed conditions of today is questionable. In the light of this, R. N. Berki's study seems scarcely worth the effort that went into producing it.

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College Gardens, London E4
Head: Mrs J. Khan
Required for September of an experienced Nursery Teacher for this 40 place Nursery School to work in a team teaching situation. SCALE 2 plus Outer London Allowance. Ref. P17/843. Application form (and further details) available on receipt of 8 x 4 s.a.e. from the Head Teacher concerned. (1817)

Primary School Education

Headships

BEDFORDSHIRE
EDUCATION SERVICE
FULFORD HILL LOWER SCHOOL
Hindale Road, Fulford Hill, Bedford MK45 5JH
From January 1986, Group 1, January 1986 - 34 pupils aged 5-11.
Application forms and further details available from the Chief Education Officer, County Hall, Bedford. Closing date: 19th July 1985. (18308)

GLoucestershire
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
CHURCHAM COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Churcham, Gloucester GL5 3JH
Head Teacher Group 1
Required for 1st January 1986.
Forms and further particulars from Rev. S. Wilson, Temple Guiting, Cheltenham (enclosure S.A.E.). (08597) 110010

Hampshire
S. P. HILL - NEW ADEPH
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hillside Road, Fareham, Hants.
Required for January 1986
Head Teacher Group 1
Required for 1st January 1986.
Forms and further particulars from Mrs. M. Reeves, Hymers House, Minsterworth, Gloucester, G. L. 5, E. 1. (08900) 110010

GLoucestershire
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
16011011 ED PRIMARY SCHOOL
Redbank, Monmouth
Required for 1st January 1986.
Forms and further particulars from Chief Education Officer, Shire Hall, Gloucester (enclosure S.A.E.). (08900) 110010

Sheffield
CITY OF SHEFFIELD
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
LOW BATHAM JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL
Dunworth, Sheffield S6 6HE
Required for this newly amalgamated Group 2 Junior and Infant School. The new school is the amalgamation of Dunworth 1 and 1. and Low Bradfield 1 and 1. Schools and will be based at the existing Dunworth 1 and 1. School site.
Application forms and further details available from the Chief Education Officer, Education Department, 2 Bond Street, Wakefield, to be returned no later than 24th July 1985. (18137) 110010

Wakefield
CITY OF WAKEFIELD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
FEATHERSTONE PURSTON FIRST SCHOOL
(5-9/164 on roll)
Required for 1st January 1986.
Headmaster/Headmistress - Group 4.
Further details on request.
Application forms available on receipt of 8 x 4 s.a.e. from Chief Education Officer, Education Department, 2 Bond Street, Wakefield, to be returned no later than 24th July 1985. (18137) 110010

HEADTEACHERS

Required January 1986. Danbury Park County Primary School (Group 4), Well Lane, Danbury, Chelmsford.
Coopersale and Theydon Garnon C of E Primary (Group 2 + L.F.A. £264 p.a.) Brickfields Lane, Coopersale Common, Epping.
Generous relocation allowances scheme in operation.
Please send foolscap s.a.e. for form and details to: County Education Officer, PO Box 47, Threadneedle House, Market Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1LD.
Closing date 2 August 1985. (18959)



BEDFORDSHIRE
EDUCATION SERVICE
HEADSHIP
RIDDMONT LOWER SCHOOL
High Street, Ridgmont, Bedford MK43 0TB
Group 1
Required from January/April 1986.
Estimated number on roll, January 1986 - 36 children aged 5-11 plus 32 in the Nursery.
Application forms and further details available from Chief Education Officer, County Hall, Bedford. Closing date: 19th July 1985. (08518) 110010

GLoucestershire
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
CHURCHAM COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Churcham, Gloucester GL5 3JH
Head Teacher Group 1
Required for 1st January 1986.
Forms and further particulars from Rev. S. Wilson, Temple Guiting, Cheltenham (enclosure S.A.E.). (08597) 110010

Sheffield
CITY OF SHEFFIELD
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
INFANT AND JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL
Hemphel Lane, Sheffield S10 2FA
Required for January 1986, a Headteacher for this newly amalgamated Group 3 school, incorporating the former Junior and Infant Schools. This is a challenging job in an inner-city area serving a multi-racial community, with experience of working with children and parents of all races is an important requirement.
Governors would welcome applications for all races and ethnic groups. Sheffield is an equal opportunities employer.
Application forms and further details available from the Chief Education Officer, Education Division, P.O. Box 67, Leopold Street, Sheffield S1 1RJ. Closing date: 26th July 1985. (08903) 110010

RE-ADVERTISEMENT

Fishersgate County First School
Gardner Road
PORTSLADE BN4 1PN
HEADTEACHER required for January 1986 for this Group 2 First School (Roll 70)
Details and application form from Area Education Officer, 15 Mill Road, Worthing BN11 4NH on receipt of s.a.e.
Previous applicants will be considered and need not re-apply
Closing date 31 July 1985



Craft, Design & Technology

Heads of Department

HILLINGDON

LONDON BOROUGH OF

GREENWAY SCHOOL

The Greenway, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PR

(Number on Tel: 800, 69 in

slight form)

Headteacher: R.G. Firth, M.A., B.Sc.

HEAD OF CRAFT, DESIGN, TECHNOLOGY

A qualified and experienced teacher is required to take charge of this important Department in January 1986.

Excellent workshop facilities exist in modern buildings near Brunel University. Good opportunities exist for curriculum development in Technology and Design with local industry and the University. The successful candidate will be a teacher with a proven record of successful teaching and team leadership. Opportunities will exist to take part in Authority based in-service training and Technological/vocational curriculum development.

For further particulars and application forms, please contact the Headteacher of the school to whom they should be returned in a sealed envelope. Outer London Allowance payable. Currently £578 p.a. (13279) 132112

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NEWHAM
LONDON BOROUGH OF
NEWHAM
Director of Education
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NORFOLK
CHOMER HIGH SCHOOL
Norwich, Norfolk, NR7 0EX
Group 5.11 ability 11 - 16.
N.O.R. 600

Required for September 1985 or as early as possible. A full time teacher with a minimum of 5 years' experience in Design and Technology. The successful candidate will be a teacher with a proven record of successful teaching and team leadership. Opportunities will exist to take part in Authority based in-service training and Technological/vocational curriculum development.

For further particulars and application forms, please contact the Headteacher of the school to whom they should be returned in a sealed envelope. Outer London Allowance payable. Currently £578 p.a. (13279) 132112

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DONCASTER
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
Doncaster, North Lincolnshire
Doncaster DN1 3JZ
Required for September 1985 or as early as possible. A full time teacher with a minimum of 5 years' experience in Design and Technology. The successful candidate will be a teacher with a proven record of successful teaching and team leadership. Opportunities will exist to take part in Authority based in-service training and Technological/vocational curriculum development.

For further particulars and application forms, please contact the Headteacher of the school to whom they should be returned in a sealed envelope. Outer London Allowance payable. Currently £578 p

BERKSHIRE
WOODSIDE SECONDARY
MODERN SCHOOL
Northampton, Northants, ENGLAND

BOLTON
METROPOLITAN POLICE

**METROPOLITAN BOARD
GEORGE TOMLINSON
SCHOOL
Springfield Road, Kearsley**

BL14 SHY
1915
MATHS SCALE 1
Teacher required
1.9.1985. Computer St
preferably but not ess
Application forms av
able from Director of E
d'n & Arts, PO Box
Faderborn House, Civic
tra, Bolton BL1 1JW t
returned to Head Teach
21 July 1985. 13

M.A. (Cantab)
Roll: 1200 boys + 500 in S
form)
Scale 1

Required September 1
Graduates to join a
MATHEMATICS Department
and to teach A/S and
Scholarship level.
Most boys take additional
Mathematics in the
form, and there are at
least 16 Sixth form Math-
ematics groups.
Scholarship with remove-
ment is given in ap-
proximately 12 cases.
Apply by letter in the
first instance direct to the
Headmaster of the school.
Full details and names of
candidates of two ref-
erences (05580) 12

**COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
THE CLARE HALL SCHOOL
Oxford Road, Halifax HX1 1PS**

NORTH HALIFAX HIGH SCHOOL
Moorbottom Road,
Hillingworth, Halifax BX2 7
Required from August 1
teacher of MATHEMATICS
(Scale 1) with statistics
level in the 11 - 18 grade
school.
Letters of application to
address 2 weeks to the
teacher by 19th July 1981
give full details of qualifica-
tion and experience, and names
and addresses of two referees
(12162) 1

DERBYSHIRE

See Derbyshire Day
advert post reference 1

NG17 8HP.
quired. The school has a well
pointment considered Full
OL.
m. NG17 70H.
Full age and ability range.

Humanities

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REF.

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SCHOOL.
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